



Hopedale Community News

Volume 32, Number 8

February 2021

Sunday Services (via Zoom) – Service 10:30 am; Open 10:20 am

Feb. 7th -- “Hope Amidst the Invisible Obvious” Langston Hughes’ 1935 poem “Let America Be America Again” revealed the disparities woven in our country’s fabric. Eighty-five years later, those disparities have been laid bare before a new generation. How can Black people find hope and healing amidst America’s contradictions? Join Amber Franklin, founding member of Oxford’s Police Community Relations and Review Commission, for this conversation. Service Leader: Jennifer Blue

Feb. 14th -- Valentine’s Day – “The Many Dimensions of Love.” Doris Bergen will review the types of love identified long ago by the Greeks (Eros, Philia, Agape, Pragma, Philautia, Mania, Storge, and Ludus) and explore what the relevance of each type may be for UUs at this particular time period.

Feb. 21st – “Luminescence has been created as a distinctly UU holiday to honor the many paths our faith offers for attaining spiritual fulfillment and to celebrate the freedom our faith provides each individual in seeking their own personal truth.” This annual service will be modified in many ways from the traditional Luminescence service. I hope that each of you will be able to have five candles available to light the “Five Paths” which are part of the text of the service. Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh with help from all of you.

Feb. 28th -- “A UU Looks at the Invention of Nylon: Not as Smooth as You Might Think.” On this day in 1935, the scientific team of Wallace Carothers invented a new polymer substance. Years later, Dupont would call the substance “nylon,” and less than one hundred years later the substance is found throughout our homes, schools and businesses. What are the implications of an invention like this one? Come join Diane Wright as we reflect on the ways in which problems are sometimes created by the solutions to previous problems. Service Leader: Cynthia Kelley

New Feature!

Our Sunday-morning speakers often make references to books, articles or websites during their presentations (in addition to providing a Story for All Ages). We are now collecting this information and will share it in the next week’s email reminder (if available in time) and in the next month’s newsletter. Please see the list of references for the January services later in this *Newsletter*.

Notes From Hopedale President Curt Ellison

Facilities Planning

In late December and early January, Hopedale committees reviewed a concept drawing for facilities improvements and provided comments for Board consideration. These responses are informing next planning stages. They favored improving the lower level for the RE program, installing accessible concrete parking spaces, rehabilitating the driveway, adding an elevator, and using refinancing and fundraising to underwrite costs. Questions remain about kitchen size and location, Sunday worship space, the location of Sunday social hour, and arranging both building levels for optimal functionality. Observations about potentially broader design approaches and cost appeared as well.

Thoughtful comments and questions about both concepts and details are a positive sign of serious interest in the planning process and expectation that it may yield results. Of course any project involving many people with substantial opinions will ultimately call upon a spirit of compromise to reach successful outcomes. I hope the Board can guide a process that collects, reflects upon, and thinks through the range of possibilities ahead, honors our planning values of openness, transparency, fiscal prudence and timeliness, yields the best decisions we know how to make for the future of Hopedale, and gets some work done.

To that end, the Board updated and extended its planning steps and timetable document to clarify several matters: a stepwise division of responsibility for different parts of the work ahead; a sequence of actions that will need to be taken; timing of informed decisions about where particular activities are located in Hopedale's building; and a schedule for obtaining the professional advice needed to make informed decisions. A Congregational Meeting will be forthcoming to review alternate concepts for improving space for Hopedale functions and to consider financing recommendations.

Giving to Hopedale

Continuing donations and pledges to the operating budget are essential to fund Hopedale's ongoing work and community outreach. Since fixed costs and larger community needs increase yearly, members and friends are encouraged to sustain or increase annual canvass pledge commitments. A separate notice about the canvass is elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

We also have a designated fund to support facilities renovation, new construction, and acquisition of essential equipment and furnishings. Contributions by cash donation, stock transfer, 401K annual distributions, pledged commitments, multi-year giving plans, legacy bequests, or other means are welcome. Questions about donor options and procedures are welcome. Contact the Treasurers at 513-895-0272 or the President at 513-461-1131.

Next Board Meeting

The Hopedale Board will meet *via* Zoom on February 8 at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to attend this meeting, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513/461-1131 to receive the invitation.

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*During an ecumenical assembly, a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire!" The Methodists prayed in a corner. The Baptists wondered where they could find water. The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that **fire** brings. The Lutherans posted a notice on the door announcing the fire was evil. The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the cost of the damage. The Jews posted symbols on the door in hopes the fire would pass. The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!" The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!" The Episcopalians formed a procession and protested. The Christian Scientists denied that there was a fire. The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson to form a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report. The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.*

From The Book of Church Jokes, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, Ohio, 2009

Religious Education Connection

Genevieve O'Malley Knight, RE Coordinator 513-593-3275

Genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com

RE Committee: Jennifer Blue, Peggy Branstrator, Adriane Ruther, Valerie Elliott (VP, Religious Services)

Recently

Hopedale kids have decorated little chalices for all our Hopedale families, and helped lead a Sunday Service about our Unitarian Universalist symbol. A big thank-you to the kids for brightening all our homes, and to Celia Ellison for organizing and distributing everything!

Hopedale grown-ups gathered for a conversation about the January 6th attempted insurrection. It was good to have a chance to think together about how our faith informs our reactions to political events. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Upcoming

UU LEGO Sources

Hopedale will be running a Zoom Religious Education class called UU LEGO Sources. This class is aimed at elementary-aged children, but others are welcome to join us as well. This curriculum was developed by Elizabeth Cogliati, the Director of Religious Education & Exploration at Unitarian Universalist Church of Idaho Falls. Here is her introduction to the course:

Our [Six Sources](#) make us unique as Unitarian Universalists. These sources create for us a living and diverse tradition which evolves as our understandings evolve. Our is also a faith that honors the individual search. What a gift to be a changeable, flexible faith that

makes room for personal creativity! That's definitely worth sharing with our children. And what better changing, flexible, and creative medium to engage it than LEGO® bricks!

We love our Principles and all the [songs](#), [animations](#) and [rainbow ways](#) of remembering them. And we have to admit they sound a lot like other moral codes such as the [Girl Scout Law](#) or the [U.N. Declaration of Human Rights](#). Our sources truly describe the distinct personality of our Unitarian Universalist faith. We are a people of curiosity, we are communities who value change, we strive to be open and aware of the world around us. We humbly draw from the wisdom of others and then turn those gifts into something uniquely ours.

So, pull up a comfy chair, pour out your LEGO bricks, and lean into the adventure of piecing together a faith of your very own!

Hopedale will run our LEGO Sources class every other week on Sundays before Services. So join us on Zoom at 9AM on the following days:

- February 21
- March 7
- March 21
- April 11 (skipping Easter week)
- April 25
- May 9
- May 23

Why I Like This Book **An Adult Religious Education Series**

Join us for a Zoom conversation that begins with a 15- to 20-minute presentation by a Hopedale member or friend, and may continue for up to an hour. Only the presenter will be expected to have read the book, and will open the discussion by exploring these kinds of questions:

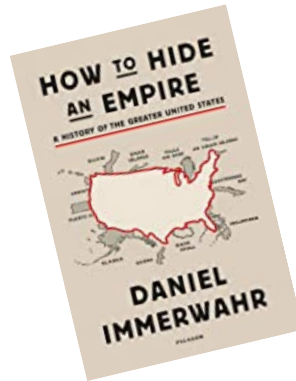
- *Who is the author, and who is the intended audience for this book?*
- *What are the key topics, the main ideas, and the arguments of this book?*
- *What can be surprising and may likely keep one reading to the end of this book?*
- *What can be learned from this book that may lead the reader to see things differently?*
- *Does this book line up with any Unitarian Universalist Principles?*

All other questions and insights generated during the conversation will be welcome!

Our first book will be ***How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*** by Daniel Immerwahr (New York: Picador, paperback, 2019), presented by Curt Ellison.

Sunday, February 7 @ 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 880 0135 7018
Passcode: 395010



Middle Schoolers & High Schoolers

We understand most of you are “Zoomed Out” but still want to connect with Hopedale friends. The Religious Education Committee is planning outdoor activities that we can do at safe distances when the weather is warmer. Meanwhile, any ideas you have are more than welcome! Thank you!

Notes from the Social Justice Committee

By Liz Woedl and Libby Earle

Social Justice Committee: Libby Earle, Liz Woedl, Mary Fox, Peggy Branstrator, Bethany Smith, Russ VieBrooks

We all took a collective sigh of relief. Let’s make sure we take care of ourselves and each other, because the work of “good trouble” is never finished. Perhaps the most effective action we can take right now to promote justice is to keep reminding our legislators that we expect them to act for the common good and thanking them when they do. Write letters – emails and faxes and post cards get delivered quickly. Make those phone calls.

Remember we are not being partisan; we are holding our leaders accountable. Money speaks loudly in politics. One way to get our legislators’ attention and address our concerns about their policies is to go to their funders...do the funders feel comfortable supporting so-and-so who is [or isn’t] helping the community? You can get information about funding at [OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org).

One of President Biden’s first actions was to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline. This vindicates all the work indigenous peoples have done and all the support from UUA. Now we must encourage President Biden to provide justice for the Water Protectors who have

stood against the pipeline. You can learn about the Water Protectors at http://www.honorearth.org/welcome_water_protectors.

Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

Many of the new presidential executive orders issued recently are designed to redo or undo environmentally harmful executive orders issued by the previous administration. Here are some highlights.

Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement

The immediate effect of this is as an important symbol of intent to address climate change. But taking meaningful action will require legislation because it is critical to make changes that can't be undone by the next election. Citizen's Climate Lobby is very hopeful that they can reintroduce HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and get hearings started on this concept.

Cancel the Permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline

Environmentalists and Native People applauded this after their many years of fighting. The pipeline would carry crude oil from the Tar Sands deposits in Canada to the Gulf Coast. Extracting crude from Tar Sands is a very polluting and energy intensive process. Extraction uses a lot of water and the oil has to be heated before it will flow through the pipeline. The company building the pipeline has a poor safety record and the pipeline crosses major rivers and sacred lands.

But it might not be as simple as cancelling the permit. Canada has spent a lot of money on it already and will use various sanctions to exert pressure to get the pipeline completed. There will also be pressure from state governments that would get large royalties.

Pause All Permits for Oil and Gas Leases on Federal Land

This affects several different parts of the country including the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and large areas in the West. Opening the ANWR to drilling was included as part of the 2017 Tax Reform bill. The revenue was supposed to offset lost tax revenue. The drilling bids were opened on Jan 6, 2021 as one of the final acts of the previous administration. But it was a complete bust. Only two companies bid on 2 of the 22 parcels put up for bid. Alaska bid on 9 at the last minute. The potential revenue was less 3% of the prediction. The extensive publicity about saving ANWR from any further development by nearly every environmental organization has heightened public awareness so much that many companies have shied away from it. This action is just a 60-day pause, however. What happens after that will be crucial.

Other Needed Actions to Undo Proposals from the Previous Administration

(source=Audubon national)

- Permanently protect Bristol Bay, the most important salmon breeding area in North America, from the proposed Pebble Mine (gold, copper and molybdenum).
- Restore the Bear Ears and Grande Escalante National Monuments to their original size to protect important cultural sites and wildlife habitat.
- Permanently protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness in Minnesota from mining.
- Permanently stop logging in the Tongass National Forest, Alaska Panhandle.
- Refuse mining permits in the Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia.

Also see Social Justice Blog about joining a local effort for bulk purchase of solar panels.

Public Lecture

The Miami University Institute for the Environment and Sustainability announces the 2021 Willeke Lecture Thursday February 11 6:00 PM featuring Professor Jonathon Overpeck, Dean of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. Lecture title: Climate Change: the Challenge and the Opportunity. Get the Zoom link <https://www.miamioh.edu/cas/academics/programs/ies/about/events/index.html>

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204

knightcm@miamioh.edu

I have an idea for something I'd like to try for the March 14th service that I am presenting, but I NEED VOLUNTEERS!

If you would like to help by **BAKING A PIE**, please let me know – send an email to knightcm@miamioh.edu or call/text me at 513-461-1204.

Don't worry about the logistics; I'll figure that out.

Thanks! Celia

Around Hopedale

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Libby Earle exhibited a tapestry in the 2021 Oxford NAACP Martin Luther King Day art exposition. The picture of the tapestry is viewable at posting of this February newsletter at the HUUC.org website. (Photos don't travel with this email program!) Below is the narrative Libby wrote to accompany her piece.

Freedom Libraries: Mississippi 1964

A fiber art tapestry by Libby Earle

December 31, 2020

Integral to the Mississippi Summer Project in 1964 were the Freedom Libraries and Freedom Houses that provided places of community gathering, landing spaces for organizers, and access to knowledge . . . knowledge that had been systemically denied to Blacks through segregation of schools and libraries. This tapestry honors the Freedom Libraries and their volunteer founders.

The tapestry is built on two vintage quilt squares that represent the time period and the value of preserving history. The two embroidered figures of Black children are based on photographs taken in the Freedom libraries. The access to knowledge was the link to voter registration and enfranchisement. The red banner of "Mississippi 1964" represents the violence of that summer and the barriers to be overcome. The books by African American authors are central. The name of the Freedom Libraries and Freedom Houses honor the volunteers who worked to set them up and who faced constant danger from white supremacists who acted with impunity.

The framed silk print photograph of the old woman with a walker standing by a Volkswagen bus on a trailer is the artist's aunt Virginia Steele, who was invited by Bob Moses to take 50,000 donated books and coordinate the establishment of libraries in 6 to 13 towns in Mississippi. The libraries would support literacy and voter registration for African Americans. Virginia drove her VW bus from Berkley, where she had just graduated with her Master's in Library Science, to Oxford, Ohio—the bus named "the Freedom Bus," by the African American children who helped her lug books and followed her like the pied piper in Greenville, Mississippi. The photograph was taken in 1999 when the bus was being donated to UCLA Berkley.

What deeply disturbed me as I was researching the project was the vicious brutality of the white community, law enforcement and government that summer. I could not help but leap forward 50 years and see the disturbing parallel of brutality with impunity. What is different is Black folks have forced the door of institutional white supremacy; and, unlike some of their relatives of 1964, they no longer believe that they are second-class non-persons. I do not expect them to cower in fear, to be afraid to speak their truth. There is no longer a place in this country for oppression and brutality. There never was a separate but equal.

My hope for 2021 is that white folks will be as courageous as the student volunteers of Freedom Summer and that people of color no longer have to be.



Staying Connected

30 Days of Love

Standing on the Side of Love is once again hosting its annual "30 Days of Love" leading up to Valentine's Day. This year we are focusing our weeks on four themes from the "Widening the Circle of Concern" report. Check out <https://sidewithlove.org/thirty-days-of-love> to join in a wide array of great activities

Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17, 2021

I know that you don't limit your kindness activities to just one day a year, but this could be a nice time to concentrate some! For ideas beyond what we might normally think of (sending a card; phoning a friend) check the internet, which includes several sites for "during a coronavirus outbreak!"

Some examples:

- make a cup of tea (or a special snack) for someone you live with
- arrange to have a cup of tea and virtual catch up with someone you know/haven't seen for a while
- tell someone you know that you are proud of them or why you are thankful for them
- send someone a joke to cheer them up
- send an interesting article to a friend
- do someone else's chore!

Ideas for kids:

- don't fight with your siblings
- leave a note for delivery drivers
- paint a rock with a kind message and leave it for someone to find
- make a meal for your parents
- do your chores without being asked or complaining
- make a card/color a picture and send to someone
- call your grandparents

Have some fun with this – you and others will enjoy it!

References from Last Month's Services

References Made During January 2021 Services

Jan. 3rd "Flaming Chalice" **Genevieve O'Malley Knight**, Flora Ruther, Lillian O'Malley, Clara Mortimore, Sylvan Ruther, Mira Davis and Winnie O'Malley.

Story for All Ages

A Cup of Light: All About the Flaming Chalice by Pamela Baxter, Illustrated by Terry Stafford. Skinner House Books, Boston.

Jan. 10th "Dignity and Justice at a Food Pantry?" **Ann Fuehrer**, Executive Director of the Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services

References

Lupton, Robert (2011). *Toxic Charity: How the Church Hurts Those They Help and How to Reverse It*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

Friedersdorf, Conor (May 6, 2020) "Food Banks Can't Go On Like This". *The Atlantic*.

Websites

Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services – www.topss.org

Shared Harvest – www.sharedharvest.org

Story for All Ages

Hope is an Open Heart by Lauren Thompson. Scholastic. 2008.

Jan. 17th – “Spirituality, Self, and Community: The importance of maintaining a spiritual grounding while navigating the expression of frustrations, fears, anxieties, and support from individuals and families working through a shared challenge.” **Becky Howard**, Talawanda School Board member.

References

Sandoval, C. (2000) *Methodology of the Oppressed*. University of Minnesota Press.

Story for All Ages

The Three Questions by J. Muth. Scholastic. 2002

Jan. 24th -- “It is with much embarrassment that I return.” Reflections on the story of Shoichi Yokoi. **Diane Wright**

References

Masashi, I. (1967). *The Emperor's Last Soldiers*. New York, NY: Coward-McCann.

Onoda, H. (1974). *No Surrender: My Thirty-Year War*. Tokyo: Kodansha International, LTD.

Website

<https://historycollection.com/40-facts-about-the-japanese-who-refused-to-surrender-after-wwii-had-ended/31/>

Story for All Ages

Everybody Needs a Rock, written by Byrd Taylor, with pictures by Peter Parnall.

Jan. 31st – “A Bible Story for Unitarians: Jonah, the Great Fish, and Even Greater Questions” **Muriel Blaisdell**

References

Primary Source: The Book of Jonah—in the Hebrew Bible’ “Minor Prophets” written after the Babylonian Captivity in the 4th or 5th c. BCE. This tiny book is two pages of text and includes 4 chapters. It is the 4th chapter that is the focus of our service and the part of the story that Unitarians will find most interesting because it includes the most philosophical substance. Indeed, this is a book of 13 questions. It is the only book of the Bible that concludes with a question.

Harper’s Biblical Commentary

Aldemaro Romero, Jr.

2012. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236868053_When_Whales_Became_Mammals_The_Scientific_Journey_of_Cetaceans_From_Fish_to_Mammals_in_the_History_of_Science

Harold Kushner, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, 1981.

Zora Neale Hurston, *Jonah’s Gourd Vine*, 1934

There are many children’s videos. Most of them get Jonah into and out of the fish and into Nineveh and his success as a Hebrew prophet. They almost entirely miss the point of the story itself, but they are amusing. See YouTube under Jonah and Whale, or Jonah and the Fish.

Happenings at Hopedale

Sunday Service committee meets after the service (11:45 am) **February 7, 2021** via Zoom.

Adult RE: Why I Like This Book. Our first book will be *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States* by Daniel Immerwahr (New York: Picador pb, 2019), presented by Curt Ellison. **Sunday, February 7, 2021** at 2:00 pm. See Zoom invitation and details under RE Connection.

Board Meeting on Monday, **February 8, 2021** at 7:00 pm. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Curt Ellison at ellisocw@miamioh.edu or 513-461-1131 for the Zoom invitation.

RE Committee meeting *tba* via Zoom; contact a committee member if you’d like to join in.

Annual Canvass starting soon – information forthcoming.

Beyond Hopedale

Guest at Your Table Collection

If you would like to make a donation to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's *Guest at Your Table* efforts you can do so by:

- Sending a check made out to Hopedale UU Community (with GAYT in the memo line) and send it to our Treasures Judy and Richard Schlub (address in "Support Hopedale") and your contribution will be submitted along with others from HUUC (which might reach a matching donor amount from UUSC).
- Sending a check from you directly to the UUSC, P.O. Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101 *or* Donate online at <https://www.uusc.org/resources/congregations/guest-at-your-table/> (This could give you membership in the UUSC.)

Unitarian Universalists Community of Greater Cincinnati Meeting

Invitation to join the February 13 breakout session:

Is Our Democracy in Danger?

None of us escaped the paired news stories of the elections in Georgia and the Capitol invasion. What does this mean for the future of our democracy? After all the UU the Vote efforts, are we done working on democracy? What are you feeling like now, a month later? We'll discuss this in small, facilitated breakout groups. None of us is an expert, but we are all UUs who support the 5th Principle.

Business meeting at 9AM followed by the breakout session at 10:30 -11:45 AM

Zoom link:

Topic: UU Council of Greater Cinti Sat Feb. 13

Time: Feb 13, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85375238277?pwd=VzJoaGhoanEyOXAxRzVKSlQ1UXNldz09>

Meeting ID: 853 7523 8277

Passcode: 126621

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,85375238277#,,, *126621# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,85375238277#,,, *126621# US (Chicago)

Have You Seen the VUU?

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) has a weekly talk show! "The VUU" (say 'view' or spell it V-U-U) airs live on CLF's YouTube channel Thursdays at 11am ET <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChurchLargerFellowsh>. You can also watch previous episodes. Hosted by CLF's Lead Ministry Team, frequently with great guests, this is a great way to keep in touch with issues and happenings in the Unitarian Universalist movement.

Supporting Hopedale

Pledge Payments

Pledge payments or donations can be made to Hopedale UU Community by mailing them to our Treasurer: Richard and Judy Schlub, 2849 Stone Mill Way, Hamilton, OH 45011.

Annual Canvass

The last time I (Celia Ellison) saw most of you (in person) was on March 1, 2020 at Books-n-Brews for the kick-off party of our 2020-21 annual canvass. That festive event was planned by your Canvass Co-Chairs, Pete Carels and me.

Now we are planning to announce the **Annual Canvass** for our 2021-22 program year, but without a live in-person kick-off party. We're still confident that the Hopedale Community will step up again, just as we did last year.

Please watch your email or U.S. mail for an announcement!

