



Hopedale Community News

Volume 32, Number 9

March 2021

Sunday Services via Zoom – Service 10:30 a.m.; Open 10:20 a.m.

March 7th – “*Confronting Climate: From Facts to Empathy to Action.*” Dr. Lindsey Rustad is a botanist and forester who will be joining us from Maine. An expert in extreme weather and climate change, she will engage us in what is the single greatest environmental threat facing the planet today. “Scientists, like myself, live in the realm of facts and knowledge, but it is the arts and humanities that create empathy from that knowledge, and it is empathy that creates action. In order to solve climate change, we need everyone on board, including scientists, engineers, policy makers, artists and every-day citizens of all kinds. We can mitigate and adapt to our changing climate, but we have to do it together!” Service leader: Patty Klingenberg. **Note:** Our speaker hopes for a very interactive discussion with us. If possible, please view the videos at these links prior to this service. ***These should be especially interesting to young people!!***

1. The story of her experiment (with 9-14 year olds) to create an artificial ice storm and the unexpected ending. **Exploring by the Seat of your Pants.**

[Lindsey Rustad | Research Ecologist with USDA Forest Service - YouTube](#)

2. Her talk for the **Women Blaze Trails Festival** from Feb 14.

[Lindsey Rustad | Reflections on Navigating a Career in Environmental Science - YouTube](#)

3. Her cartoon for **Curiosity Camp Goldieblox**

[Lindsey Rustad | Save Animals from Pollution with USDA Ecologist – YouTube](#)

See more about the speaker in *Environmental Corner*, elsewhere in this newsletter.

March 14th – “*Pi(e) Day*” with Celia Ellison. When we shared recipes for the 2019 Thanksgiving service, the conversation turned to pie. We realized that Pi Day 2021 falls on a Sunday – what a great day to **share** pie with one another! Undeterred by the pandemic, we will do just that. See note under *Congregational Life* for special information! ***Spring ahead one hour so you won’t be late!!***

March 21st – “*Bravery and Idealism: Two Cases in Law/Medicine/Ethics*” with former HUUC member Terry Perlin. Bravery is often thought to be an ethical virtue. It’s easier to speak about than to know up-close. This talk describes two cases of bravery, one of which unfolded not too far from where we are “meeting” this morning. And the other, though occurring thousands of miles away, has a real and tangible connection to the first. Service leader: Cynthia Kelley.

March 28th -- “*Spring, Sprang, Sprung: A UU Perspective on the Holidays of Spring.*” Ostara, Pruim, Palm Sunday, Holi . . . In many religious traditions, spring holidays commemorate a time of rebirth and renewal. Join Diane Wright as we look at the wide variety of spring holidays, and the lessons and celebrations they might inspire in our own lives. Service Leader: Valerie Elliott

Notes From Hopedale President Curt Ellison

Congregational Meeting March 7

I hope you can participate in a Congregational Meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 via Zoom gathering. The main goal of this meeting is to focus our conceptual preferences for building expansion. This meeting was initially announced for February 28 and the materials distributed then will be used on March 7 instead. A new Zoom invitation has been distributed (see *Hopedale Happenings*, below, for the link).

In November and December, Hopedale committees reviewed a concept drawing for improving our building and returned comments that endorsed improving the lower level for Religious Education programs; installing accessible concrete parking spaces; rehabilitating the driveway and parking lots; adding an elevator; and refinancing and fundraising to meet construction costs. Questions were asked about the location and size of the kitchen, the location of Sunday social hour, the size of the Sunday worship area, and if adding a separate space to the upper level might address some of those questions.

The Board agreed with our committees that improving the RE area, adding an elevator, and improving the drive and parking with accessible concrete spaces are priorities, and that refinancing and fundraising will be needed to do those things. After reviewing questions about the kitchen, social hour and worship space with the Board, Robert Bell conferred with J Elliott and drafted concept sketches showing three alternate approaches to expanding the building. Each of these, it's believed at this point, might be built for a relatively similar cost. Concept 1 adds new dedicated sanctuary space to the west and expands social activities into the existing upper level. You may recall that the expansion plan reviewed at a 2019 Congregational Meeting also adds new sanctuary space, but to the south. Concepts 2 and 3 show an addition to the east to enlarge the existing building, with the kitchen on different levels.

A main purpose of this Congregational Meeting is to help the Board better understand the Community's preferences about a conceptual approach to improving our building. Drawings to be reviewed at the meeting are meant to show only alternate possible locations for expansion. All details of actual room size, shape, and features will be worked out with the guidance of a paid architect who is yet to be employed. That architect will consult with the Board and key stakeholders, and be regularly advised by a small Construction Committee of Hopedale members who are familiar with construction projects. Before any construction begins, at another Congregational Meeting we will invite agreement to a specific building design, and authorization of a refinancing approach that maintains prudent monthly mortgage payments.

The Board appreciates your continuing interest in this project and welcomes your perspectives. We are following a timetable of planning steps that will be regularly modified to accommodate Board and Congregational reviews, reliable cost estimates, the architect's completion of both conceptual drawings for review then detailed construction drawings, the refinancing process, competitive bidding, contractor availability, and other contingencies. The most optimistic estimates suggest that construction might begin as soon as late spring or summer 2021, but this is yet to be determined. The timing of lower-level improvements, accessibility and parking improvements, and driveway rehabilitation will be coordinated with other construction plans.

Next Board Meeting

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

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The children in a UU church school class were drawing pictures. The teacher asked one, "What are you drawing a picture of?"

"I'm drawing a picture of God," was the reply.

"But nobody knows what God looks like," objected the teacher.

"They will," said the child, "in a minute."



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)

Upcoming

The Religious Education Committee is meeting 9:00 am Sunday, February 28. We'll be brainstorming outdoor summer offerings, and would love to hear your requests or input! E-mail or call a committee member to give your thoughts, or to get the Zoom link and join us. Please do keep sending your thoughts throughout March, too.

UU LEGO Sources

Hopedale kids are enjoying 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.

Classes will be held via Zoom every other week on Sundays before Services.

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! Join us on Zoom at 9:30 am on the following days: February 21 (it was great fun!); March 7 & 21; April 11 & 25; May 9 & 23.

Why I Like This Book! An Adult Religious Education Series

The first discussion in this series was well attended and we look forward to more great sessions! We know you've been reading something you'd love to share. Contact Genevieve to arrange your turn!!

The Zoom conversation begins with a 15-20-minute presentation 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?

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

Cincinnati Pride outdoor events, normally held in June, are cancelled this year due to the pandemic, with some online virtual events still a possibility. Here's hoping for a sunny and colorful Pridefest in June of 2022!

The upcoming virtual UUA General Assembly in June may feature a workshop on the Court Watch project in Cincinnati, where volunteers observe municipal court proceedings. The purpose of the project, organized by the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, MARCC, an interfaith coalition, is to understand municipal court and offer suggestions that may improve the local court system and those that it serves – defendants and the community. Hopedale supports the regional work of MARCC through its dues to the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati.

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee, Hopedale UU is on March 11, 2021, 6:30pm. If you are interesting in attending, please contact Libby Earle for the Zoom instructions at mearle1945@gmail.com.

Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

More about our March 7th guest speaker, Dr. Lindsey Rustad

Peggy's niece, Lindsey Rustad, is the Co-director of the Hubbard Brooke Experimental Forest near Durham, New Hampshire. Hubbard Brooke is one of the oldest of 80 research locations maintained by the US Forest Service. It is also one of 28 Long-term Research Sites maintained by a special National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Hubbard Brooke has data of all kinds dating back to 1955 and has been on the cutting edge of research in a great variety of disciplines. Much definitive research on acid rain was done here.

Lindsey works for the USDA Forest Service and is also an adjunct faculty member of the University of Maine at Orono. She is internationally known for her work on climate change with over 100 peer-reviewed publications. In 2018 she won two prestigious awards from the USDA Forest Service.

Lindsey has also been chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as an official mentor for women in science careers. She often interacts (often remotely) with students of all ages and in many locations especially encouraging girls to consider and prepare for science careers. The links listed with the March 7th service for several video talks should be interesting to children, especially young girls, although most of what she says will be useful to any young person thinking about their future. She did not follow a traditional pathway to a science career!

Changing Demographics and the Environmental Movement

The early environmental movement was driven by the desire of privileged whites, mostly men, to set aside scenic wilderness areas and wildlife for their own enjoyment. John Muir and friends wanted unspoiled places to camp in the mountains of California and started the Sierra Club in 1892. Socialites Harriet Hemenway and Minna B. Hall were appalled by the slaughter of birds for feathered hats – the fashion rage of the day – and started a boycott among women that led to the creation of the National Audubon Society in 1895. The idea of conserving special places and protecting wildlife caught on and led to the first national parks. Teddy Roosevelt expanded the movement and supported legislation that is still in use today to preserve special sites.

But most areas designated to be set aside for recreation and wildlife preservation were not unoccupied. Most supported indigenous peoples who had lived there for generations. They were expelled, often by force, and rules about hunting and fishing meant they lost access to ancestral ways of living off the land.

As a result of various environmental disasters and famous books such as *Silent Spring*, in the 1950s and 1960s environmental emphasis shifted to preventing pollution. This led to the “decade of environmental laws” such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Superfund laws, Endangered Species law and many others. The first Earth Day was held in 1970.

Many of these efforts, although laudable and well intentioned, left behind certain groups and communities. These were often economically disadvantaged communities of color and indigenous lands. Since reservations are sovereign nations, federal protection laws do not apply and they have historically been used as “dumping grounds.” In time it became clear that these communities had more air and water pollution, poorer enforcement of anti-pollution laws, slower cleanups and higher rates of environmental health problems. The concept of “Environmental Justice” became a topic of discussion and many environmental groups proposed “solutions.” But because most environmental organizations were predominately white and male, the people most affected by environmental problems were seldom part of the discussion and “solutions” were not always what they really needed.

Recent activism from these “left-behind communities” led to the proposed “Green New Deal.” The Green New Deal is a resolution introduced in congress by representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts to reduce the U.S. emissions of carbon, and curb climate change and improve social conditions. A youth activist group, the Sunrise Movement, held a sit-in outside Nancy Pelosi’s office in 2018 that made headlines.

Since then, a coalition of youth, indigenous and black and brown groups have joined together to generate political support and develop specific strategies for implementation. They have proposed the THRIVE Agenda: **T**ransform, **H**eal and **R**enew by **I**nvesting in a **V**ibrant **E**conomy. It has eight pillars: 1) Create good, safe jobs; 2) Build the power of workers to fight inequality; 3) Invest in black, brown and indigenous communities (at least 40% of funds); 4) Strengthen and heal relationships with native nations; 5) Combat environmental injustice to create healthy lives for all; 6) Avert the climate and environmental catastrophe; 7) Ensure fairness for workers affected by economic transitions; and 8) Reinvest in public institutions. The coalition believes climate change and

the social problems that the pandemic has made obvious are intertwined and their solutions must be tackled together.

Major environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and Earthjustice, are supporting this concept. And the resolution has over 100 co-sponsors in the House and 11 in the Senate. One thing that has become noticeably clear is that passing substantive climate change legislation will require the support of indigenous, black and brown voters to overcome the power and money of the fossil fuel industry. Changing US demographics requires the united efforts of many groups who have different perspectives to solve the huge problems the world is facing today. The old ways of doing things will no longer work. Environmental groups that desire to succeed must diversify their leadership and become more inclusive as fast as possible.

Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP

513-461-1204

knightcm@miamioh.edu

“Pi(e) Day” is Sunday, March 14

Volunteer **PIE BAKERS** are still welcome -- let me know as late as the week prior to the March 14th service. If you would like to *make a pie to share* with your Hopedale friends, send an email to knightcm@miamioh.edu or call/text me at 513-461-1204 and we can discuss the details. Anyone with allergies or particular aversions to specific pie flavors or ingredients – or a specific favorite – please let me know!

Thanks! Celia

Around Hopedale

Hopedale Mowing

Please consider volunteering to mow our Hopedale lawn in 2021. The season runs from the beginning of April to mid-October. That’s about 30 weeks. If we recruit ten volunteers, no one needs to mow more than three times!

Email Pete at carelspe@hotmail.com or call 513-523-8614 and state your scheduling preference. Please do it now, before you forget. We’d like the schedule ready to send out by March 20! Thanks, y’all – Pete Carels.

Staying Connected

Recovering Well from Surgery

Don Isaac

Nick Wozniak

References From Last Month's Services

References made during the February 2021 services:

February 7th – “Hope Amidst the Invisible Obvious” Amber Franklin

Story For All Ages “A Tale of Two Beasts” by Fiona Robertson (2015) This story teaches children about perspective-taking and empathy.

[Animated reading by Sarah Silverman on YouTube](#)

References

[This 5-minute NPR](#) story introduced me to the term "The Invisible Obvious"

Poems by Langston Hughes '[Let America Be America Again](#)'; [Dream Deferred](#)

Poem by Amanda Gorman ["The Hill We Climb"](#)

Song by Bruce Springsteen, "American Skin (41 shots)" [Live](#)

[Performance](#) and [Lyrics](#) (This song is about the 1999 police killing of Amadou Diallou by NYPD officers. He was holding his own wallet)

Recommended reading

"My Grandmother's Hands" Resmaa Menakem (2017). This book is about healing the racialized trauma specific to the American experience. The book is filled with body practices for Black bodies, White bodies, and Police bodies. I've stopped telling people that I'm *reading* Resmaa's book. Now I tell people that I'm *working through* the book. It is not meant to be a quick read but a guided practice. Below I've included links to two podcasts featuring Resmaa Menakem.

["On Being" episode with Resmaa Menakem](#)

["Ten Percent Happier" episode with Resmaa Menakem](#)

For a little context, I wrote a letter to current and former students last summer when the protests for racial justice were peaking. I submitted the letter to the American Speech Language Hearing Association's national blog and they published a distilled version of it: ["On Racial Disparities, Truth, and Reconciliation: An Invitation"](#).

"Brown Boy Joy" By Dr. Thomishia Booker (2018) [YouTube reading](#) was also referenced.

February 14th -- "The Many Dimensions of Love" Doris Bergen

Story For All Ages “Guess How Much I Love You?” by S. McBratney (2017) London: Walker Books, Ltd.

References:

<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/articles/types-of-love>

Neto, F. et al, (2000) Cross-cultural variations in attitudes toward love, *Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology*, 31, 626-635.

Kim, J. & Hatfield, E. (2004) Love types and subjective well-being: A cross-cultural study. *Social Behavior and Personality*, 32(2), 173-182.

Recommended listening

Any popular love song

February 21st – “Luminescence” Linda Amspaugh

Story for All Ages “The Very Lonely Firefly” by Eric Carle.

References

Text for the service: <http://www.luminescenceholiday.org/text-of-the-service.html>

Haiku from “The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, & Issa,” edited by Robert Haas.

Readings from “Journal of a Solitude” by May Sarton

February 28th -- “A UU Looks at the Invention of Nylon: Not as Smooth as You Might Think” Diane Wright

Story for All Ages “The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin” by Julia Finley Mosca.

Happenings at Hopedale

Religious Education Committee meeting on **February 28, 2021 at 9:00 am**. If you are interesting in attending, please contact a committee member for Zoom invitation.

Congregational Meeting

March 7, 2021 at 2:30 pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85990993048?pwd=eE5tS0t5UjBTY3h6RGxBTkx1ZWlVQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 9099 3048; Passcode: 948275

Board Meeting on Monday, **March 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.

Social Justice Meeting on **March 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm**. If you are interesting in attending, please contact Libby Earle for the Zoom instructions at mearle1945@gmail.com.

Beyond Hopedale

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 11a.m.

ET <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChurchLargerFellowsh> You can also watch previous episodes. Hosted by the 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.

Support Hopedale

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

Annual Pledge Drive is Underway!

Members and a few friends will have received a packet with information for our *Annual Pledge Drive*. Let us resolve to uphold another strength of our community: faithfully following through on pledges we made for this fiscal year and committing to carry on into the next. Our Annual Pledge Drive is an invitation to celebrate our achievements during a stressful year, and affirm our resolve to come home even stronger than before. Now is the time to renew our financial commitments to Hopedale.

Please review the materials and if you would like to discuss anything with one of the canvass co-chairs, please contact Peter Carels or Celia Ellison. Additionally, you may contact any Board member about anything at anytime.

Peter Carels; 513-523-8614; carelspe@hotmail.com
Celia Ellison; 513-461-1204; knightcm@miamioh.edu

