



Hopedale Community News

Volume 33, Number 3

September 2021

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

September Sunday Services Will Continue via Zoom

September 5th – Our First Principle. This is the first of our year-long examination of the principles outlined in the Unitarian Universalist Association Covenant. Service leader Doris Bergen will discuss the first principle, which asserts that UUs affirm and promote “The inherent worth and dignity of every person.” We will think both about the meaning of that statement and about the ease or the difficulty we may encounter in trying to live up to that principle.

September 12th – Shock and Fright and Quiet Candlelight: 20 years later, remembering the day after 9/11. This year marks 20 years since the attacks of 9/11. We will reflect on what was happening the day *after* the attacks: how people responded in many different ways, and how individuals, and our nation as a whole, began on new paths of many kinds. Join Diane Wright as we reflect on the ways we rebound - or not - after huge shocks to the spirit. Service Leader: Drew Ruther.

September 19th – The Jewish New Year: Myth and Reality. The autumn religious holidays in the Jewish tradition, Rosh Hashanah [New Year] and Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement], have been celebrated for centuries. Terry Perlin, Miami Professor Emeritus and Hopedale Emeritus, examines the mythic, and moral, roots of the religion’s communal life. It concludes with an evaluation of contemporary political and ethical issues in Israel, the “Jewish homeland” in the Middle East, since the end of World War II. Service Leader: Celia Ellison.

September 26th – What We’ve Learned During the Pandemic. Presenters Cynthia Kelley and Genevieve O’Malley Knight will lead a discussion on the different types of things learned during the past year and a half. If you have learned something new or unexpected that you’d like to share, please contact Cynthia or Genevieve by mid-September. Service Leader: Celia Ellison



Notes From Hopedale President Curt Ellison

Services

Our new year began with an engaging rock and water gathering. Although we are still entirely in remote mode for Sunday services, it's nice to see the thought, energy, imagination and music we're putting into them. We continue to attract good Zoom turnouts on Sundays, and enjoy time after services to hear what's happening in our lives.

Religious Education

Children's RE has been active via Zoom with hands-on projects, and sponsored multigenerational outdoor gatherings on our grounds that attracted enthusiastic participants of all ages. An outdoor "Blessing of the Backpacks" was a popular new prelude to the school year, and suggested ways we may set up to hold outdoor services at some point this fall – if the pandemic will give us the break we surely need!

Outdoors

Work by our gardeners, groundkeepers, and buildings and grounds maintenance team has been continuous both spring and summer, yielding a well-kept landscape, a full flower garden, thriving vegetable garden, tasty produce, and a spiffy newly-renovated stairway between our play areas. We owe all the fine folks who are keeping the Hopedale spirit alive with their hearts and their hands a solid vote of gratitude.

Gifts!

Peter and Kathleen Carels donated a solar array for Hopedale that should be installed soon, reducing our energy costs and enlarging our Green Sanctuary. Peter also made a major donation for a new air conditioner to dehumidify and cool the main level. These are quite generous gifts and we are grateful for them. Our sensitive grand piano is happier too, even if we can't be in the building with it right now! All of us will definitely enjoy having a reliable and more efficient environment when we return to our building.

Risks

After reviewing results of a congregational survey, the In-person Gatherings Task Force is developing a rubric for evaluating our risk level as we engage in different Hopedale activities during the pandemic. It's keyed to epidemiological and scientific information regarding southwestern Ohio and Butler County trends, as reported by health care professionals daily. The Hopedale rubric will guide us in a fact-based flexible response to determining best ways for gathering face-to-face when it's safe to do so. The rubric chart is still being refined, will be reviewed by the Board, and published to the congregation. We tested it initially with decisions about the outdoor gatherings we held in July and August. Multigenerational events and other gatherings we have recently held at the church met our guidelines – as did cancelling a multigenerational event on a day in late August when overall Butler County indicators moved to a "Very High" risk level.

Tentative Plans

In deciding how and when to gather in person, we expect to be guided by science, latest information, reason, and our fundamental Unitarian Universalist principles of due respect and care for diverse people of all ages. As soon as pandemic conditions permit, we expect to begin multi-platform gatherings where at least some folks can be in the church building, and those who are not can participate via Zoom. If possible, we may also hold a Sunday service on our grounds, with Zoom access available. For the moment, however, Zoom services continue.

Who Works for Us?

Elsewhere in the *Newsletter* you'll find a list of volunteer committees, Hopedale representatives, and our paid employees for 2021-2022. Hopedale committees make critical decisions for carrying on our daily work. If you are not involved now, and are interested in serving Hopedale via the thrill of decision-making, speak right up.

Facilities Improvement Planning

The Construction Task Force is working on cost estimates for the facilities improvements that have been prioritized by the congregation. Interest rates remain favorable for refinancing, and important donations have been made to our Facilities Fund. During the pandemic, although the cost of building materials rose sharply, architects and contractors have been busy with residential, commercial and institutional projects. The Task Force has considered recent renovations at other local churches, met with local architects, and is now consulting contractors in an effort to focus our financial estimates more accurately.

Next Steps

At a fall congregational meeting the Task Force will report to the congregation about our progress to date, what we have learned, and ways we might prioritize our next steps. We'll want to know what the congregation thinks about these important matters, so watch for a forthcoming meeting announcement. Meanwhile, if you have questions about any aspect of this project, contact me at 513-461-1131. We welcome your support, and you may contact our Treasurers at 513-895-0272 to learn more about ways to provide it.

Board Meeting

The Hopedale Board meets Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to attend this meeting via Zoom, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513/461-1131 for the invitation.

~ ~ ~

Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

*The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
August 28, 1963*



Stewardship

By Drew Ruther, VP

513-265-1538

andrew.ruther@gmail.com

Greetings Hopedale Members & Friends,

As we head into September and the outdoor maintenance tasks begin to slow down, I'd like to recognize all those folks who have spent time this year sprucing up the Hopedale grounds. Whatever your contribution, it was appreciated and enjoyed by someone. But while we celebrate our efforts, let's not give up on our pursuits. This is a great time of year to make improvements instead of simply maintaining what we have.

Although a lot of our indoor projects are on hold, there is still a lot happening outdoors. We have a set of new steps nearing completion that will replace the deteriorating steps connecting the upper and lower levels behind the building. Invasive plants are being removed from our Hopedale grounds in many areas including in the parking lot beds and in the leach field. There are plans to remove some of the older/dying trees scattered around the property as well.

We will hold one outdoor work day in September on Saturday, Sep. 11th from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

As always, contact Drew Ruther (andrew.ruther@gmail.com or 513-265-1558) with questions.

Hopedale Needs . . .

As part of the clean-up efforts begun in 2019-20 the office area is getting organized! We could replace the two desks with one desk with multiple drawers that measures no wider than about 40 inches and about 24 inches deep. If you have such an item, please contact Valerie Elliott at valedwell@gmail.com.

Religious Education CONNECTION

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

Genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com

RE Committee: Jennifer Blue, Valerie Elliott, Adriane Ruther; Darrel Davis (VP, Religious Services)

Children's RE & Activities – "one-room schoolhouse"

Sunday, Sept 5th – Cartuuns class led by Darrel Davis (Zoom); 9:30 a.m. -- craft kits delivered

Saturday, Sept 11th – Yard Party at our building; 6:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, Sept 19th – Cooking Activity; 9:30 am (Zoom)

Saturday, Sept 25th – Yard Party at our building; 5:30-7:30 pm

Timing for the Yard Parties will change to provide two hours together before sunset. The gatherings are dependent upon weather and the COVID situation.

Adult RE

Book discussions (currently via Zoom) will be starting soon. Please contact Genevieve if you have read something you'd like to share.



Notes from the Social Justice Committee

By Liz Woedl

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

Invitation to join new Cincinnati UU Anti-Racism Learning Pod

During the past 18 months, Unitarian Universalists who identify as White have been growing in our understanding of racial justice issues and the desire to put our faith into action on behalf of Black, Indigenous and People of Color community members. If you are White-identified and have been reading books, watching movies, listening to podcasts about our country's history of oppression, engaging in honest challenging conversations that identify inherent personal and system racism, and planning how best to become an anti-racist activist, we invite you join with other Cincinnati-area UU's in the newly forming **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati (UUCGC) Anti-Racism Learning Pod**. We believe we can learn more, support one another more, and accomplish more when we join together with our UU faith as our platform.

You are invited to attend the UUCGC's online Zoom meeting on Sat., Sept. 11, at 10:30-11:25 to share about your personal and congregational anti-racism efforts and to help shape our new cross-congregational initiative. You are also welcome to attend the entire UUCGC meeting which begins at 9:30. Here is the Zoom link for the meeting:

Zoom Link for September 11 Meeting

Topic: Fall UU Council meeting Sept 11, 2021

Time: Sept 11, 2021 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83736507324?pwd=U3FMNDhXVWkZ2ZF15R0tzQTFlUVFwQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 3650 7324

Passcode: 633915

For more information prior to the meeting, or if you are unable to attend on Sept. 11 but wish to be included as the initiative develops, please contact Linnea Lose at First U linnealose@gmail.com and/or Joetta Prost at St. John's - joettaprost@gmail.com . Please note that future Learning Pod meetings are likely to be virtual via Zoom with periodic in-person activities, pending Covid precautions.

HOPEDALE Social Justice Committee

Be on the look-out for announcements about discussions surrounding the Actions for Immediate Witness from General Assembly (texts sent in advance of our 8/22 service).

Environmental Corner

By Peggy Branstrator

jonwb@earthlink.net

Nine Oxford households have recently added (or are about to add) solar panels to their roof. Four of these (Carels, Branstrators, Fuehrer/Howard, Ruthers) are Hopedale members. In addition, the panels formerly on the Carels' roof will be moved to Hopedale. Several other Hopedale members/friends are also exploring solar options. Given the size of our community I think that speaks volumes about Hopedale's commitment to environmental citizenship.

Because the Branstrators' panels were installed in late June, we have had time to go through a full billing cycle. During the month of July our 20 panels (400 watt each) generated 1.1 MWh of DC electricity! During the month we used 171 KWh of AC electricity, so our credit exceeded our bill and our July electric bill was a \$7 credit! Needless to say, we were pleased with that! But due to the difference between the rate at which we are credited for putting power on the grid and the rate at which we are charged for power taken from the grid it is also clear that Duke is also benefitting a great deal! Our system was sized (estimate 9,265 KWh per year) to cover our entire electric use (7,126KWh last year) but it's possible to choose to do a smaller, cheaper system. There are financing options available from the chosen company. There are also companies that do a lease option which involves little, if any, upfront costs. You agree to buy power from that company for a certain number of years at a fixed rate and after that the system is yours. So if this sounds interesting there are several people you can talk to for more information.

The Oxford Seniors Ecoclub is meeting at Oxford Seniors Center on Wednesday September 8 from 2:30 - 4:00 to write postcards to the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO) about stopping the bailout of the two coal-fired power plants (Kyger Creek, OH and Clifty Creek, IN) that were increased and extended by HB 6. Ohioans are currently paying approximately \$233,000 a DAY for these two obsolete plants that have operated at a loss since 2012! Come join us!



Congregational Life

By Celia Ellison, VP
513-461-1204
knightcm@miamioh.edu

HOPEDALE EXPLORES

Let's kick off our explorations by listening to (via Facebook) and then chatting about a sermon by the Rev. Chris Buice entitled "Turtle Herding and the Delta Variant." Chris was our student minister in the late 90s while he attended the Earlham School of Religion and we obviously left quite an impression on him. We get quite a few honorable mentions.

Thursday, September 16th 7:00-8:00 pm. Meeting ID: 849 2581 6488; Passcode: 349190
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84925816488?pwd=eGtBYm1KNEtOakQ2K2FKMldrRGU3Zz09>

I am hoping that the time of day works for the majority of us – between dinner and various bedtimes! I'd appreciate feedback regarding time of the week and time of day.

Future explorations:

October -- Discussions about topics raised at General Assembly

November – Pie making demonstrations

More ideas are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

You will see when you look at the list of committee members at the end of this newsletter that Membership is missing members! But we are not missing visitors to Hopedale. We've had a couple of visitors to our Zoom Sunday mornings and four families (with six children amongst them) visited the Blessing of the Backpacks event in mid-August.

Please let me know if you would like to join me on this committee and connect with new people as well as those we aren't "seeing" regularly.

Curt and I received a nice note from Patric Leedom who attended our Zoom services most of this past year. He writes that his home congregation of St. John's has changed its services to 10:30 for a while so he will only be able to join us from time to time.

Around Hopedale
By Celia Ellison, VP, Congregational Life

REMEMBERING WAYNE COPENHAVER

Thank you to all you dear people for your care and support during the years since Wayne and I got his diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease . . . it has meant so much to me. And I appreciate you all more than words can ever express.

On **Saturday, October 2nd, at 1:30** we are holding a Quaker-style memorial service/ Celebration of Wayne's life at First Friends Meeting, located at 2010 Chester Boulevard here in Richmond, Indiana, where Wayne spent the last 20+ years of his working life.

You are all cordially invited to attend -- I look forward to seeing those of you who can join us. The service will also be offered via Zoom. Check my FaceBook page, email me or call

me (kissancope@gmail.com or 765-993-6112) for updates as the date approaches; in these strange times changes may be necessary.

Much love,
Orlita Kissane



Staying Connected

Cards from Hopedale friends would be greatly appreciated by:

Eunice Meadows
468 Hermay
Hamilton, OH 48013

Carol Hennessey is moving to Florida over Labor Day Weekend. Mailing address to be shared after we get it.

References from Last Month's Services

August 1 Exploring Hymns and Hearing Some of Their Stories **Cynthia Kelley and Celia Ellison** *Singing the Living Tradition*, Beacon Press, Boston, 1993. *Between the Lines: Sources for Singing the Living Tradition* edited by Jacqui James; research by Mark Belletini, Kristen Jewett and Helen Pickett, Skinner House Books, 2001.

August 8 Blessing of the Animals **Jennifer Blue** Opening words: Prayer for Animal Friends: <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-animal-friends>. At the end of the blessings: We Bless These Animals We Love <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/bless-animals>

August 15 Candle on the Corner: Considering the Festival of Santa Muerte; **Diane Wright** Cline, A. (2018, January 25). *Mictecacihuatl: the Goddess of Death in Aztec Religious Mythology*. Learn Religions. <https://www.learnreligions.com/mictecacihuatl-aztec-goddess-of-death-248587>

Elbein, A. (September 4, 2017) *Our Lady of the Underground*. The Texas Observer. <https://www.texasobserver.org/our-lady-of-the-underground/>

Flanagin, J. (2014, September). *The Rise of the Narco-Saints*. The Atlantic.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/09/big-in-mexico/375060/>

Gino, F. (2013, May 14). *Why Rituals Work*. Scientific American.
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-rituals-work/#:~:text=Because%20even%20simple%20rituals%20can,anxiety%20and%20increase%20people's%20confidence.>

Kingsbury, K., and R. Andrew Chestnut (2020, September 11). *Holy Death in the Time of Coronavirus: Santa Muerte, the Salubrious Saint*.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7485595/>

Smith, M (2013, November 7). *La Santa Muerte and Jesús Malverde: Narco Saints?* New Mexico Mercury.
http://newmexicomercury.com/blog/comments/la_santa_muerte_and_jesus_malverde_narco_saints
Reference: Nuestra Señora de la Santa Muerte. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Muerte
August 22 Virtual GA **Libby Earle and Genevieve O'Malley Knight**
<https://www.uua.org/ga> *Story for All Ages* "Extra Yarn" by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen; Blazer + Bray, 2012.

August 29th Rock and Water **Patty Klingenberg**

Happenings at Hopedale

Saturday, Sept 11 -- Outdoor work day from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.

September 14 at 7:00 p.m. Hopedale Board meets both in person and via Zoom. If you wish to attend this meeting, email ellisocw@miamioh.edu or call 513-461-1131 for the Zoom invitation. Weather permitting, you could also join us outside at Hopedale.

Saturday, October 2nd – Celebration of **Wayne Copenhaver** -- 1:30 pm, First Friends Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. See "Around Hopedale" for details.

Beyond Hopedale

- Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 – UU Council of Greater Cincinnati meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021 – UU Council of Greater Cincinnati meeting, 9:30 a.m.

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.

Hopedale Facilities Fund information and a reply form were mailed at the beginning of June (with an email follow-up regarding the Schlubs' address!). It is wonderful to see that donations and pledges are coming in.



Hopedale Committees, Representatives, Appointees 2021-22

Effective July 1, 2021

COMMITTEES

General Rules and Guidelines for Committees per *HUUC Bylaws*

- Open to all members and friends, except Leadership Nominating Committee is members only.
- The Board appoints committee chairs, either directly or upon Vice President recommendations.
- All committee-member terms of service are one year, beginning July 1 and expiring June 30.
- Committee chairs are limited to four years of service unless the Board grants an exception.
- Committees should consist of three to five members as a guideline, not a rule.
- Board and committee responsibilities are described in *HUUC Bylaws*.
- All HUUC meetings are open to members and friends and announced in advance.

Board

2020-2022 President: Curt Ellison
2021-2023 Secretary: Neil Danielson
2021-2023 Treasurers: Judy and Richard Schlub
2021-2023 Vice President, Religious Services: Darrel Davis
2020-2022 Vice President, Congregational Life: Celia Ellison
2020-2022 Vice President, Stewardship: Drew Ruther

Finance

Overseen by VP for Stewardship; shifted to President for 2021-2022
VP for Stewardship will meet with committee
Treasurer is advisor and voting member
2021-2022 Members are former presidents, treasurers, canvass chairs
2021-2022 Members: Jennifer Blue, Peter Carels, Celia Ellison, Richard Schlub
2021-2022 Chair: Liz Woedl

Sunday Services

Overseen by VP for Religious Services
2021-2022 Members: Doris Bergen, Celia Ellison, Cynthia Kelley, Patty Klingenberg
2021-2022 Ex Officio Member: Genevieve O'Malley Knight

2021-2022 Chair: Jennifer Blue

Religious Education

Overseen by VP for Religious Services

2021-2022 Members: Jennifer Blue, Valerie Elliott, Adriane Ruther

2021-2022 Chair: Genevieve O'Malley Knight

Leadership Nominating

Overseen by President, only Hopedale members may serve

2021-2022 Members: Liz Woedl

2021-2022 Chair: Linda Amspaugh

Social Justice

Overseen by VP for Congregational Life

2021-2022 Members: Peggy Branstrator, Russ Vie Brooks, Mary Fox, Bethany Smith, Libby Earle

2021-2022 Chair: Liz Woedl

Communications

Overseen by VP Congregational Life and Secretary

Per policy, members are President, Secretary, VP for Community Life, Administrator

2021-2022 Members: Neil Danielson, Celia Ellison, Curt Ellison, Amy West Poley

2021-2022 Chair: Celia Ellison & Neil Danielson, Co-Chairs

Membership

Overseen by VP for Congregational Life

2021-2022 Members:

2021-2022 Chair:

History

Overseen by President

2021-2022 Members: Curt Ellison

2021-2022 Chair: Valerie Elliott

Needs and Feasibility

Overseen by VP for Stewardship

2021-2022 Members: Linda Amspaugh, Robert Bell, Libby Earle, J Elliott, Celia Ellison, Jessica Kopp, Drew Ruther, Liz Woedl

2021-2022 Chair: Robert Bell

Housing and Property

Overseen by VP for Stewardship

2021-2022 Members: Peggy Branstrator, Russ Vie Brooks, Peter Carels, Curtis Mortimore

2021-2022 Chair: Drew Ruther

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Hospitality

Overseen by VP for Congregational Life

2021-2022 Members: TBD

Care

Overseen by VP for Congregational Life
Works with Care Coordinator Amy West Poley
2021-2022 Members: TBD

Long Range Planning

2021-2022: Board responsibility, advised by Needs & Feasibility, Finance Committees

Personnel

2021-2022: Board responsibility with advice of those board members with personnel oversight duties

Denominational Affairs

2021-2022: Secretary oversight with advice of Board

Fundraising

2021-2022: VP Stewardship oversight; assigned in 2022-2022 to President

HOPEDALE REPRESENTATIVES

Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati Council Delegate

2021-2022: Liz Woedl, Libby Earle

Oxford Religious Communities Association Liaison

2021-2022: Judi Hetrick

Voting Delegates to 2021 UUA General Assembly

2021: Libby Earle, Liz Woedl
2022: TBD

BOARD STAFF APPOINTEES

Coordinator of Religious Education

Paid staff, part time
Overseen by VP for Religious Services
2021-2022 Coordinator: Genevieve O'Malley Knight

Office Administrator

Paid staff, part time
Overseen by President
2021-2022 Administrator: Amy West Poley

Infant and Toddler Caregiver

Paid staff, hourly
Overseen by RE Coordinator
2021-2022: TBD

Musician/Pianist

Paid staff, weekly
Overseen by VP for Religious Services
2021-2022: Evan Danielson

Sunday Services Zoom Host

Paid staff, weekly
Overseen by VP for Religious Services

2021-2022: Evan Danielson

OTHER BOARD APPOINTEES

Canvass Chair or Co-Chairs

Overseen by President

2021-2022: Peter Carels, Celia Ellison

Construction Task Force

2021-2022: Robert Bell, Lead; Peggy Branstrator, Celia Ellison, Russ VieBrooks;
Drew Ruther and Curt Ellison, Ex-Officio

In-Person Gatherings Task Force

2021-2022: Neil Danielson, Lead; Jennifer Blue, Genevieve O'Malley Knight, Drew
Ruther, Liz Woedl, Curt Ellison

Webmaster, Website and Social Media Administrators

Per Communications Policy

Overseen by VP Congregational Life and Secretary

2021-2022: TBD

Director of Music

Overseen by VP for Religious Services

2021-2022 Choir Director: Patty Klingenberg

Compiled by Nominating Committee: Linda Amspaugh & Liz Woedl, with Curt Ellison, President 8-29-21

For changes, contact 513-461-1131 or ellisocw@miamioh.edu