

Happenings at Hopedale...

- **Sunday Service Committee - Sunday, February 7th** after Sunday Service.
- **Reading Group, Sundays, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20 at noon**, we will discuss *The Botany of Desire*.
- **Social Justice Action Committee - Tuesday, February 9** at 5:30pm at HUUC.
- **Wednesday Wine** at the Cru wine bar in Oxford on **February 10th at 5pm**
- **HUUC Board will meet on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30pm** at HUUC
- **Saturday Coffee Circle, February 20** at Lauren Marsh's, see page 4 for more info.
- **Newsletter deadline is Sunday, February 21** Email items: huucoffice@gmail.com
- Monthly **Potluck** will be held on **February 21** after Sunday Service.

Hopedale
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Unitarian Universalist Community
625 Oxford, OH 45056

Hopedale News Community



Hopedale Unitarian
Universalist Community

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Sunday Services

February 7: "This I Believe." This I Believe is an international organization engaging people in writing and sharing essays describing the core values that guide their daily lives. Members and friends in Unitarian Universalist communities have a wide variety of core beliefs. Hopedale community members/friends Jennifer Blue, Lauren Marsh, and Pat O'Malley will each share their "This I Believe" essay with us today. Service Leader: Genevieve O'Malley Knight.

February 14: "Love Letters." Please join us on Valentine's Day for a circle worship exploring love in some of its manifestations. If you wish, bring a love letter, poem, or brief story that touches your heart. Humorous offerings are certainly welcome. Service Leader: Susan Thrasher.

February 21- "Sequoyah and The Talking Leaves: When Language Makes its Way to Paper." On this day in 1828, the first issue of The Cherokee Phoenix was printed in Georgia, using both English and the Cherokee printed language that had been developed 7 years earlier by Sequoyah, a Cherokee Silversmith. Join Diane Wright this morning as we consider what happens when a spoken language becomes a written language. Our language shapes the way we experience the world. What would UUism be without the written word? Come join us as we explore the power of the pen, and what this history means for our inner lives and our communities. Service Leader: Orlita Kissane. Monthly potluck today after service. Please join us!

February 28 - "Oxford's African American Heritage." Valerie Elliott of the Smith Library of Regional History will share some of Oxford's African American history from the 1800s to the present in a talk that touches on politics, religion, education, and more.

Service Leader: Steve Dana.

President's Corner from Doris Bergen

The 2016 year has started off well for Hopedale with interesting Sunday programs and good attendance in spite of snow, especially on the RE weeks. There was a great crowd on the last snowy Sunday when we heard about the history of the Miami tribe and its connections to Miami University. Also, the new piano sounds wonderful. Thanks for finding it, Wayne!

The next few months will be busy ones, with our annual pledge drive beginning on the first Sunday in March (March 6th), which is also our Founders' Day. Our spring congregational meeting will be held on April 17. So mark your calendars for those events.

We are still awaiting word about whether we will receive any funds from our approved Chalice Lighter Grant. As you know, the money comes from a UU "crowdsourcing" type of outreach and apparently there were not sufficient funds contributed this fall to fund all three approved programs fully. We really don't know yet if we will receive funds or how much we might receive.

Have you looked at our Hopedale websites lately? If you have not, please take a look at them and if you have any suggestions give them to one of our Board members. We will be discussing possible improvements to the websites at our February meeting. The addresses for the sites are:

www.huuc.org

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The Board really appreciates the many ideas and activities in which members are engaged and the enthusiasm present in the Congregation! Since the national meeting will be held in Columbus this year, let's hope that our enthusiasm will continue to be present and that many members will engage in that event.

Hope has Human Hands by Rev. Kit Ketcham excerpted from the Church of the Quest for Meaning website.

Over the years, as I've examined faith in light of my own experience, I have gradually revamped my thoughts about Hope as a religious concept. It seems to me that the Hope innate in the human spirit is more than simply a wish for good outcomes, for peace on earth, or a politically correct holiday greeting. Hope is far more than clichés or a wish for miracles. It is not trivial or sentimental.

The definition I've come up with after many years of observing my own need for hope and the moments which seem to create hope for me and others is this: Hope is my awareness, my deep understanding, that I am connected to the inextinguishable stream of life, that I am part of the whole.

Let me repeat that definition and ask you to compare your own experiences to it. For me, hope is the clear sense that I am a part of the inextinguishable, inexhaustible stream of life. It is a tangible sense of my place in the universe. It is the fiber of the interdependent web of all existence, the connection I have to all else in life.

When I have lost hope, I have lost my sense that I belong to the universe, to the web, to life itself. But hope is strengthened in me with every reminder I receive of that connection. It may start when I first see the tomato seedling pop up in the seed tray on my windowsill. It may be triggered by the purring of the fuzzy kitten on my lap as I read. Even a stranger's greeting on the sidewalk or beach may evoke a warmth that reminds me that I do belong here, I am a part of life.

Hope is found in relationship, whether with my pets, friends and family, strangers, all of nature or with God, if you are comfortable with that word.

If religion is defined as the expression of human relationship with self, others and the universe, then hope is a manifestation of that relationship and a valuable piece of our active faith. Unitarian Universalists mostly do not hope for a heavenly home; we hope for an earthly home that is heavenly and we know that it is our job to build that home.

R.E. Connection continued

your own skills, as well as insights into the multiple components of conflict and how culture plays a role in that. By attending with members of your congregation, you can learn how to move this work forward in your congregation.

Who should attend: Anyone who wishes to increase their abilities and fluency in intercultural interactions. This is designed for both lay leaders and professional religious staff. More information at midamericauua.org/events

Planning Ahead

Regional Assembly 2016

April 29-May 1, St. Paul, MN

“The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism”

MidAmericaUUA.org/ra

General Assembly 2016

June 22-26, Columbus, OH!

“Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect”

Registration opens March 1, with chance to apply for financial aid during March
www.uua.org/ga

February Religious Education Schedule

Feb 7 – Class Day

One-Room Schoolhouse - Valentines

Feb 14 – Valentine’s Activity Day

Feb 21 – Class Day

Pre-K/K: Teddy Bear Month – Sick!

E.E: Seeing Others with Awe

U.E.: One Person Makes a Difference

Feb 28 – Activity Day TBD

From the Social Justice Committee

by Libby Earle

- Coming soon: “*Dialogues for Justice*”. In the planning stages, SJC is working on a project with the Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice to sponsor a monthly community forum on justice issues at Hopedale.
- Look for ways to contribute to **Syrian Refugee Assistance**.
- Oxford City Council has formed two commissions and is looking for members: **Police Oversight Commission** requires participants to live in the city of Oxford proper. The **Community Relations Commission** does not have a residency requirement. **This would be a good opportunity for a Hopedale member to follow up on our Jim Crow study.** Let Libby Earle or Ann Fuehrer know if you are interested and contact Oxford city council.
- Hopedale will continue its focus on **Food Justice and Food Insecurity**.
- The Reading Group will be discussing Michael Pollan’s *The Botany of Desire*.
- Social Justice Committee will begin a project of **Conscious Food Consumption**.
 - Recognizing the stress that animal meat production places on the environment and climate, members are encouraged to commit to “**One Meatless Meal**” each week.
 - To support those who have little experience in vegetarian meals and to honor our members who already are vegetarians/part-time vegetarians, we would like to **include at least one vegetarian entrée at Potluck (complete with the recipe!)** and other meatless snacks for social hour (we are pretty good at that). Sign up for a meatless entrée.
 - Look for upcoming opportunities to access **local food**.
- The Community Garden plans to **provide produce to the Oxford pantry**. Look for opportunities to share to work.
- Finally, look for our summer services to build on the *Botany of Desire* with a fifth *Desire*, the *Desire for Food Justice* and the *Summer of the Green Bean*.

Next SJAC meeting Tuesday 2/9 5:30 PM at Hopedale.

Congregational Life Update from Judi Hetrick, VP for Congregational Affairs

It's not too late to join the group reading Michael Pollan's "Botany of Desire"! We will meet four times – one for each main chapter -- on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month after church. Those dates are Feb. 7 and 21 and March 6 and 20. (Even though the Sunday Services Committee also meets on 1st Sundays, readers not in that group can simply enjoy a slightly longer social hour as we await our friends.) On potluck Sundays (the third week of the month), we'll either eat and meet simultaneously, or we'll eat and adjourn for our chat. The chapter on "Apples" and the book's introduction will be our focus on Feb. 7.

Coffee circle goes on the road Saturday Feb. 20, as we accept a gracious invitation from Lauren Marsh to meet at her home. If you're in Oxford and want to attend, let's car pool! E-mail me at juhetric@yahoo.com or call me at 523.4298 to make arrangements. If you're driving on your own from Oxford, take Ohio 177 south. Lauren's house is three miles from Darrtown. Her driveway is at the intersection with Washburn Road. Her address is 2880 Hamilton Richmond Road, Hamilton.

Isn't it wonderful how many new faces we've been seeing? Make it a point, please, to say good morning and introduce yourself to at least one person every Sunday morning. (I hope you remember this happening to you when you started attending!)

Please take an hour to unwind with pleasant conversation during Wednesday Wine at the Cru Win Bar (next to Patterson's) on Feb. 10. Snacks and soft drinks are on me.

Point your Web browser to huucsj.org to see Libby Earle's reviews of *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* by Naomi Klein and *Active Hope: How To Face the Mess We're In Without going Crazy* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Thanks, Libby!

Thanks to the January hospitality team of Steve Dana, Libby Earle and Russ Vie Brooks, and Celia Ellison. And thanks in advance to the February team: Linda Amspaugh, Jane Flueckiger, Susan Thrasher and Don Morner.

R.E. Connection from co-ordinator Genevieve O'Malley Knight

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Children's Religious Education classes continue, with our awesome teachers and fun Work Evenings. The Pre-School/Kindergarten class has grown into quite a lively group as we welcome a new student and some three-year olds transition out of the Nursery.

Adult Religious Education

What would you like to attend for a Spring Workshop Series?

Spirit of Life – exploring our spiritual lives as Unitarian Universalists

Faith Like a River – themes from Unitarian Universalist history

What Moves Us – Unitarian Universalist Theology

The New UU – Welcome and Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and Hopedale for new members and visitors

Let Genevieve know and we'll get it scheduled! (more at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults>)

MidAmerica Events

Winter WomenSpirit 2016: "Recognizing Our Calling"

February 5-7

Location First Unitarian Church of Chicago; 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave.; Chicago, IL 60637

This year's Winter WomenSpirit features a keynote speech by Kate Braestrup, Unitarian Universalist minister and best-selling author. More information can be found at www.womenandreligion.org

InterCultural Competency Workshop: Who Are Our Neighbors?

February 19-20

Location All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E 56th St, Indianapolis, IN 46226

\$40 registration includes snacks, Saturday breakfast & lunch

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley, Congregational Life Consultant for MidAmerica.

Learn a new framework for understanding intercultural competency, and how to enhance