

Happenings at Hopedale...

- ✦ **Sunday Service Committee - Sunday, January 3rd** after Sunday Service.
- ✦ **Wednesday Wine** at the Cru wine bar in Oxford on **January 13th at 5pm**
- ✦ **HUUC Board will meet on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm** at HUUC
- ✦ **Newsletter deadline is Sunday, January 17th.** Email items: hucoffice@gmail.com
- ✦ **Monthly Potluck** will be held on **January 17** after Sunday Service.
- ✦ **Reading Group, Sunday, January 17 at noon**, we will discuss *The Botany of Desire*.
- ✦ **Saturday Coffee Circle, January 23** at Kofenya in Uptown Oxford at 10:30 am.

Hopedale
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Hopedale News Community



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Sunday Services

January 3: "Longing for a Super Savior, or What To Do Until the Messiah Shows Up."

Donne Hayden, newly retired minister of the Cincinnati Friends, joins us to speak about longing for a super hero. She says, "wouldn't it be great if someone could stop the madness—stop the sequence of wars we find ourselves stomping into in the Middle East; stop the brutality of our police forces and the violence of our citizens; stop pervasive injustice and inequity in our system of government; stop the hate and fear that create terrorists; reverse the damage we've done to the planet's resources. I confess, I am attracted to the kind of magical thinking that someone good and just could swoop in and fix things. . . in the meantime, though, what can we do?" Service leader: Patty Klingenberg.

January 10: " The Center of Our Faith: The First Principle." Denise Tracy will talk about the creation of the seven Unitarian Universalist principles and discuss the importance of the first one: The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Service leader: Susan Thrasher.

January 17: "Shake, Rattle and Roll With It: A UU Perspective on Suffering."

On the 20th anniversary of the Hanshin Earthquake, a devastating seismic event that killed thousands of people near Kobe, Japan, we will consider the causes of suffering, and how our UU traditions call us to respond. Service Leader: Steve Dana. Second collection will go to the Oxford Family Resource Center to help folks with their fuel costs.

January 24: Daryl Baldwin will talk about the relationship between Miami University and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. He will also share some of the current efforts of the Myaamia Center in developing language and cultural educational tools for the Miami Tribe community. Service Leader: Linda Amspaugh.

January 31: Peter Carels will lead us in a rousing drum circle. Stay tuned.

President's Corner from Doris Bergen

This year Hopedale has given itself a great holiday present: an excellent and new (to us) grand piano! Our thanks go to Wayne for all of his careful searching and testing of pianos, to Jon Ralinovsky for confirming which piano tones were best, to Sallie for supervising the moving details, and to Ann for getting the payment checks ready. We first celebrated the new piano and its great sound on December 13. Wayne and the choir members, as well as the whole congregation, have been pleased to have this new purchase in time for the holiday services.

Another present we received in December is our new heat pump, which was recently installed. Also, the dogwood tree contributed by her family in memory of Edith Lehman has been planted and a new bench will be installed in the garden. We have not yet heard about our Chalice Lighter grant amount, but should have that information sometime in January. If you are a Chalice Lighter and have not yet contributed, please do so soon.

While we have had positive Hopedale events, these last weeks have had more “hellish” national events. Now there are many voices denigrating our Muslim neighbors and demanding that refugees be kept out of the U.S. but few voices are condemning Planned Parenthood enemies who are also U.S. residents. Unfortunately, the history of our country has many instances of immigrant phobia, and this intolerance has been evident even from our earliest times as a nation. Almost every immigrant group (Irish, German, Italian, Jewish, Japanese, Chinese, Mexican, Vietnamese, etc.) has faced similar intolerance when they first came to the United States, and all of these groups have enriched our country rather than harming it. This is true of our Muslim population as well. Let us hope that the voices of reason and tolerance can prevail.

GA, June 2016, in Columbus, Ohio

Ever wanted to attend General Assembly, but not sure about the cost? Well, here's your chance...The General Assembly (GA) Volunteer Committee provides GA registration in exchange for volunteer work at GA. Volunteer Applications must be submitted by March 31. Adult volunteers are required to contribute 24 hours. Youth (grades 9-12) volunteers and those who qualify for reduced registration rates are required to contribute 14 hours.

-Applications will be available on March 1 and must be submitted by March 31

-Applicants will be notified of award decisions by April 23

Please do not register for General Assembly while your volunteer application is pending. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/volunteer>

Congregational Life Update from Judi Hetrick, VP for Congregational Affairs

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We start the year happy to have seen many new faces in the congregation as 2015 came to end. Many folks returned – and returned! Please introduce yourself to anyone new to you whom you see any Sunday morning. By extending the welcome of our congregation to everyone, we can help make 2016 a joyous new year for all.

We're looking forward to a great Congregational Life year, starting with these activities:

- Our long-awaited reading group will kick off on Sunday Jan.17 at noon: right after the service and a little snacking and schmoozing. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we will have several copies of the book -- Michael Pollan's *The Botany of Desire* -- available for loan. (If you prefer an environmentally friendly e-reader, the book is available in non-paper form as well.)
- Saturday Coffee Circle is back! We'll meet again on Jan. 23 at Kofenya in Uptown Oxford. Our MeetUp group has 16 people interested in Hopedale. We'll invite all of them to join us.
- Wednesday Wine will return to the Cru Win Bar (next to Patterson's) on Jan. 13. We've been having interesting conversations – and even some laughs. Snacks and soft drinks are on me.

Have you checked out huuc.org lately? See our report from the UU Justice Ohio Assembly at <http://huucsj.org/> Also, I started a new Congregational Life page at <http://huuc.org/congregational-life/> Take a look and send me ideas – or items – to post! We hope to have board minutes online for all to see very soon.

Thanks to Jane Flueckiger and Jessica Kopp for coordinating hospitality in December. Jane recruited and scheduled so many people to help that I've lost count! To all of you – and to the January team – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thanks also to Jennifer Blue (and her new family!) for again welcoming cookie bakers and eaters for the annual holiday cookie exchange. Yum!