



Sunday Services

March 6: "Stewardship Day." On our 26th Anniversary, we will celebrate! What makes us feel joyful? grateful? committed? Where do we invest our energy and talents? How do we continue to construct the foundation of our Hopedale home? Sponsored by Hopedale Board and Leadership.

March 13: "Tilling our Common Ground" -- In these polarized times, we take this opportunity to peel away the layers of "spin industry" hype that obscures the commonality of our needs and aspirations. Hopedale welcomes back special guest Andrew McKnight for another of his thought-provoking musical services. Service leader: Peter Carels. Daylight savings time, Spring Ahead. Don't be late!

March 20: "Palms on the Ground: Stepping Softly into Holy Week." March 20 is Palm Sunday this year. It's also International Storytelling Day. Coincidence? Come join us as Diane Wright helps us consider a Unitarian Universalist experience of Holy Week. Join us after service for a potluck,

March 27: "What If the Gnostics Had Prevailed?" On this Easter Sunday, Donne Hayden will lead us to consider the dozens (perhaps hundreds) of Christian sects which developed within the first two hundred years of the death of the historical Jesus. The Gnostics were early Christians who had a completely different understanding of the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from what we know today as Christianity. What if the Gnostics had prevailed? Would we celebrate Easter? If so, how might it be different? Egg hunt for the kids after the service.

President's Corner from Doris Bergen

There are a number of important events planned for the next few months and these require participation from all of our members. First, our annual Pledge Drive will begin on Stewardship Day, which is the first Sunday in March (March 6th). That date is also our Founders' Day and we will be celebrating 26 years as a community. Your committed financial support is very important for enabling Hopedale to continue, to enhance, and to expand its mission, and so we hope that you will indicate your level of financial support by that date or shortly thereafter. At that session the members of the Board and other Leadership Groups will be reporting on their accomplishments and future plans.

Our Spring Congregational Meeting will be held on April 17. The nominating committee is identifying potential candidates for board positions so if you are interested in being a candidate, please contact Linda Amspaugh.

Another opportunity for participation is to serve as a delegate to either the Heartland District Assembly (April 12-13, in Muncie, IN) or the General Assembly of the UUA (June 19-23, in Louisville, KY). Hopedale's delegates do the voting on behalf of our congregation although other congregation members are also welcome to attend these assemblies.

We have now received word that we will get about half of the funds we requested in our Chalice Lighter Grant. Thus, we need to get two committees started on planning the activities (somewhat reduced!) that we proposed in that grant application. We need both adult and child members to be involved in our Natural Playground Committee and we need adult members for our Basement Renovation Committee. If you are interested and willing to be involved in either of these groups, please let me know by the March 6th meeting date.

It looks like 2016 will continue to be a great year for Hopedale!



From the Social Justice Committee

OCPJ has informed us that Oxford City Council is looking for someone to serve on the Community Relations Commission. Here is the link if you are interested in this opportunity.

<http://www.cityofoxford.org/boards-and-commissions/commissions/police-community-relations-review-commission>

Please save your newspapers (black newsprint only) for use as mulch in the Community Garden. We want to do more growing and less weeding as we try our hand providing produce to the Oxford Pantry.

John Eicher, one of Hopedale's founding members, turns 95 years young (!) on March 30th of this year.

In celebration, we are honoring him with a casual birthday open house, to which all HUUC members/friends; as well as John's family, Miami friends and co-workers, and others who've known John throughout the years, are invited.

The party is planned for **Saturday, April 2, 2016** from 1:30 to 4:00 PM in Hopedale's main gathering room. There will be snacks, drinks, music, and of course lots of great conversation and fellowship. Come whenever you like, and stay as long as you wish. No gifts, please. See, call, or email John's daughter Nancy Eicher with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you!



This is the bench we now have up and ready to put in the garden when weather warms up--in honor of departed members James and Edith Lehman (contributed by their family). What a wonderful lasting tribute to their commitment to Hopedale and to their memory.

Congregational Life Update from Judi Hetrick, VP for Congregational Affairs

Reminder: 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 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.)

**The Oxford NAACP
Freedom Fund Banquet is Sunday,
April 17**, at Miami's Shriver Center in
Oxford. Tickets are \$50.00 and can be
purchased from Valerie Elliott.

“Plan Your Own Funeral” Workshop

Saturday, March 19, 2016

10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Hopedale

No pre-registration required; need not attend for entire time period

Co-ordinated by Celia Ellison

What to expect from such a workshop:

Time and space to think about issues surrounding your funeral (or someone else's)

Readiness checklist (Do you have a will? Where is it? Burial or cremation?)

Opportunities to:

- Review checklist for wills, health-care power of attorney, etc.; samples and templates will be available
- Draft an obituary (bring a laptop if you'd like)
- Think about the style of a service (Will anyone speak? Who? Music? Readings)
- Consider musical selections
- Look at sample services

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

genevieveaok (at) yahoo (dot) com -- 593-3275

Religious Education Committee Needed

This is our third year of our revamped Hopedale Religious Education Program. We've had a lot of energy in and around our programming, especially Children's Religious Education. It's time to take our program to the next level. The vision is for sustainable programming for all ages that involves a broad spectrum of community members, and adds to the energy, spiritual development, and connectedness of our Unitarian Universalist Community.

The next step is to have a Religious Education Committee. This R.E. Committee will work with the Co-ordinator for Religious Education and its primary jobs will be to help with planning classes and recruiting teachers and facilitators. The Committee's work will only take a few meetings each year, and much of the work could be done during the summer months, if that suits the Committee members.

Please let Genevieve know if you are interested in supporting a sustained, energetic Religious Education program at Hopedale by serving on this Committee. I would like to have the R.E. Committee named by Hopedale's Spring Congregational Meeting, April 17, with a getting-started meeting to be held in May. Thank you.

Children's Religious Education

Food Drive!

Our Upper Elementary class is holding a food drive. Please bring non-perishable donations to Hopedale any Sunday in the month of March. Collection bins will be in the entryway and/or the office. Food will go to the Oxford Choice Pantry. Last collection date is Easter (March 27).

Work Night!

The next Children's R.E. Work Night is Friday, March 4th, 6-7:30pm. All are welcome for a potluck dinner as we help our teachers prepare for the next several class sessions. This month we will also do a thorough cleaning of the Nursery.

R.E. Connection continued

Adult Religious Education

Stay tuned for announcements of a “New to UU” class, as well as “This I Believe” or Build Your Own Theology workshops. Schedules will be determined soon. Be sure to let Genevieve know of your interest so you can be on the contact list!

March Religious Education Schedule

Mar 4 – Friday Evening Work Session 6:00-7:30pm

Potluck dinner, class planning, room cleaning, and fellowship

Mar 6 – Class Day

Pre-K/K: Teddy Bear Month

E.E: Seeing Others with Awe

U.E.: The Power of Peace

Mar 13 – Activity Day

Mar 20 – Class Day

Pre-K/K: Easter

E.E: Generosity: Give and Ye Shall Recieve

U.E.: Kindness is the Key

Mar 27 – EASTER Intergenerational Service. Egg hunt after service.

Last Sunday to bring donations for Food Drive.

A UUA Shout Out to all our Members!

Elizabeth Terry of the UUA annual program fund wanted to extend her thanks the members of the Hopedale congregation for already fulfilling its pledge for 2016! She said it is greatly appreciated.

A UUSC Shout Out to Hopedale!

Members and friends of the Hopedale community donated \$409.04 to the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee through their annual Guest at Your Table Program. Thank you for your generosity.

Denominational Affairs & Assemblies

CALL FOR DELEGATES! REPRESENT HOPEDALE!

Now is the time to plan to attend! For both Regional and General Assembly, “Early-Bird” registration discounts end on March 31st.

Regional Assembly 2016

April 29-May 1, St. Paul, MN

“The WHO in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism”

www.MidAmericaUUA.org/ra

General Assembly 2016

June 22-26, Columbus, OH!

“Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect”

www.uua.org/ga

The Hopedale Board is seeking applicants to serve as our community’s delegates at the Heartland District Assembly (April 29-May 1, St. Paul, MN) and at the General Assembly of the UUA (June 22-26, in Columbus, OH). The events are open to all, but Hopedale is to send two delegates to each assembly who will be charged with voting on behalf of our congregation.

Please send a letter of interest to President Doris Bergen with the following information:

- Which assembly(ies) do you wish to attend and why?
- Have you had any previous opportunities to attend District or General Assembly?
- Which assembly workshops interest you and why?
- Are you willing to present what you learn to the congregation upon your return, and in what form?

Please send your letters to bergend@miamioh.edu or Doris Bergen, 642 Shultz Drive, Hamilton, OH 45013. Applications to serve as delegate for District Assembly are due by March 15th; applications for General Assembly are due by March 20th.

Schedules, lists of workshops and other details are available online at www.midamericauua.org/heartland-da and uua.org/ga.

If you have any questions concerning either assembly, or service as a delegate, please ask Doris.

Happenings at Hopedale...

- **Founders' Day, March 6th.** Join us in celebrating 26 years of community during this Sunday service.
- **Sunday Service Committee** - Sunday, March 6th after Sunday Service.
- **Reading Group, Sundays,** March 6 & 20 at noon, we will discuss “The Botany of Desire.”
- **Wednesday Wine** at the Cru wine bar in Oxford on March 9th at 5pm
- **HUUC Board** will meet on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30pm at HUUC
- **“Plan Your Own Funeral” Workshop,** Saturday, March 19, 2016, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Hopedale. No pre-registration required.
- **Newsletter deadline** is Sunday, March 20th Email items: huucoffice@gmail.com
- **Monthly Potluck** will be held on March 20th after Sunday Service.
- **Sunday, March 27th,** Egg Hunt after service.

Hopedale
P. O. Box



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