

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 2018

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"Blessed are they who protect the earth and all her creatures, from the plants of the field to the trees of the forest, for their reward shall be harmony with the web of existence."
--John Gilbert

I am excited about the coming of April. It is a month of growing and greening, a month of birthing and bounty. At New Hope, April will be a month of artistic endeavors, learning and service.

We will start the month with an Easter "Celebration of Life" including songs, stories, a Flower Communion and an Easter Egg Hunt. The Flower Communion is a uniquely Unitarian service given to us by the Rev. Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. On June 4, 1923 he introduced a ritual in his congregation that celebrated the diversity and the unity of his members. Rev. Capek died at Dachau, but his beautiful service lives on in Unitarian Universalist churches today.

On April 8, we will explore our "Our Connections To Faith." Faith and belief are subjects that are sometimes difficult for rational, scientifically minded people to wrap their heads around. Yet, I bet we all believe in something. At New Hope on this day, we will have small group discussions about this important spiritual topic that can be hard to talk about.



In the middle of the month, we will exercise our artistic imaginations again with a service called "Art Feeds Our Spirits". Music and art can be important parts of our spiritual experience, as well as lots of fun. What calls to you and feeds your soul? Join us in a creative project that will be fun and collaborative.



Earth Day falls on the fourth Sunday of April this year and once again, we will honor our Mother Earth and all the wonderful gifts she has given us. Our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle calls on us to affirm and promote our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We are all part of the web of life, connected by the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the grain we grow. The Earth needs us to conserve and protect her resources so that she can continue to sustain healthy living.

The last Sunday of the month will be devoted to "Service For New Hope". Each year our congregation holds a work party to spring clean our building and spruce up our yard. If we all dust, rake, polish and tidy, we can be done in about half an hour. Then we can enjoy a potluck brunch. So bring your work gloves and a dish to pass. We can get 10 hours of work done in 30 minutes and then have a meal. Awesome!!

For the month, our service project will be creating bookmarks for the residents of Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights. New Hope regularly collects and donates appropriate books to the teens at VM. They like to have new bookmarks to go with their books and our Women Of Hope have made several batches of them. This year, we are inviting all church members to make bookmarks, before and after the services during the month of April.

Last month our project was to collect donations for "We The People Of Detroit", a group which provides water to households whose water has been turned off due to disputes about and inability to pay their bills. Jennifer Teed from the Michigan UU Social Justice Network led "The World And Her Water" service at New Hope in March. We were very pleased to welcome guest musician Rocket(!!!) Man also. It was a wonderful morning of unique music and stories. Thanks to both of these dedicated water warriors for sharing their talents and insights with us! New Hoppers donated **\$430** to purchase water. Thanks also to our Social Justice Liaison, Deb Edford, for leading this project.

We give many thanks to Dennis Strasser and Mike Kelleher for their good work on our Charity Poker Fund Raising event. Many people contribute to making this project a success by working at the games, sometimes for double shifts. This is a big effort and Dennis coordinates it all for us, while Mike keeps track of the business end. We all help to keep the lights on and the furnace running. Cheers to all our volunteers!

Happy Spring to everyone!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for April 2018

Meditation Group meets every Sunday before services from 9:30 – 10:15 AM. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"A Celebration of Life"

Easter is a day to celebrate the joy of life which blossoms each Spring. We will hold a flower communion to honor the diversity among us and to remember our Unitarian heritage. With songs and story we will welcome Spring! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages to enjoy.



SUNDAY, APRIL 8
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Our Connection to Faith"

Faith is unique to each person. What does it mean to believe in something? What do you believe? How do your beliefs inform your life? Ponder this and come join us. We will have small group discussions to share our experiences about faith.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Art Feeds Our Spirits"

Let's make a spring garland! With homemade flowers and rainbow ribbons, we will create a masterpiece that will grace our building. We will also make unique bookmarks for the students at Vista Maria. We are not all artistically talented, but together we can accomplish beautiful things. Come and be creative in community!

SUNDAY, APRIL 22
10:30 AM

DEB TYLER
KATHY SILVER

"Earth Day"



Each year New Hope celebrates our mother earth. Our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle calls on us to affirm and promote our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Without the earth, we have no home. Let us honor and take care of her.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
10:30 AM

DEB TYLER
KATHY SILVER

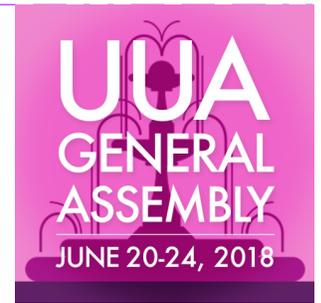
"Service For New Hope"

This morning we will give our service to New Hope in the form of spring cleaning our yard, our building and our neighborhood. Wear your work clothes and bring your rakes and rags. We will spruce up our church for the warm and sunny weather coming soon. Afterward, we'll celebrate with brunch, so please bring a dish to pass.

KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DEB TYLER MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR



*Our Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 a. m. Services last until 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend regardless of faith, race, age and sexual orientation. We hope you'll stay for coffee and conversation after Services.



General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2018 General Assembly will be June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kansas City Convention Center.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. CST. at www.uua.org/ga/travel

GA Theme: "All Are Called"

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, "How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?" The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.

From UUA.org

Hospitality



Please consider signing up for Sunday hospitality. The duties are simple and are posted on the refrigerator along with the sign up sheet. Many thanks to those of you who continue to provide this valuable service to our congregation.

April 1 – Sue M.
April 8 – Bonnie
April 15 – Corrine
April 22 – Denise
April 29 – Kathy and Dennis

Greeter Sign-up



To welcome everyone who comes each Sunday, we seek two Greeters to be here by 10:15 each week: One near the front door to show them where to hang coats, the sign-in sheet, hospitality area and the community room. The Second to give the visitors a visitor's bag, name tag and tell them about the congregation. This will help our congregation grow in size and community.

Anyone can send me an email to let me know which Sunday they'd like to be greeter: kzaenger@comcast.net

April 1 – Sue M.
April 8 – Bonnie
April 15 – Corrine
April 22 – Denise
April 29 –

April 2018

Dates to remember

Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

Meditation Group 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

April 3 - Lunch Bunch, 12:30 at Hector and Jimmy's in Milford



April 9 - Board Meeting, 7:00 at New Hope

April 12 - Book Club at New Hope. Our book will be "The Leisure Seeker" by Michael Zadoorian



April 19 - Women of Hope meeting, 6:30 at New Hope