

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 2019

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"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back
in the middle of March."

- Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926



surviving on uninhabitable land between countries, and outside of cities. On April 14, we appreciate the homes we have, and try to understand what life would be like without them.

Easter Sunday is a time to think about the life of Jesus of Nazareth and the lessons he tried to teach us with his preaching and by his example. On this day our topic will be "Planting Seeds of Hope and Love." How do we try to our lives so that we plant the seeds that will make life better for others? Please join us as we plant seeds actually and metaphorically.

At the end of April, we will spend a Sunday morning learning about what it means, and how it feels, to be a transgender person. Recently, this has been a big topic in our Unitarian Universalist magazine, "The World". We will try to imagine how it feels to be born into a body that doesn't match who we really are. How would we cope with this situation?

We hope that everyone will come and join us as we explore these new topics and learn together. At New Hope learning is a cooperative venture. We all teach and learn from each other.

We want to express our appreciation again to new member Petra Verwijs, who shared her extensive knowledge of the Old Testament and the story of King Cyrus with us last month. When New Hope folks are willing to share their expertise with us, we all benefit and get smarter. Thanks Petra!

We want to tell Dennis Strasser how much we appreciate his hard work on our behalf for the Charity Poker Program. Everyone at New Hope benefits from this fundraiser. It helps us to keep the heat and the lights on, and to pay staff. Mike Kelleher also contributes to this effort. Thank you to them both for their good work!

As spring moves forward, I wish for each of you, beautiful flowers and budding trees, singing birds and baby animals to enjoy, warmer days and blue skies.

See you in church!

Love, Kathy

Already 2019 is one quarter over, and we are in the fickle month of April. One minute it will feel as warm and balmy as a May day. Then a cold wind will blow, and we will feel like we are back in March. Lucky for us, all of the trees and plants do not seem to care much about the variable weather, they just keep growing toward the light.

April, at New Hope, will be a month of variable topics. After last Sunday's theme of Politics and Religion, we will start the new month with a discussion of TRUTH. How do we find it and how do we know it? Truth can be an elusive thing, but it holds value for everyone and it's important in relationships and in democracies.



It is also important to have a home, yet millions of people around the globe are without one - not just the homeless people on the streets of our country, but all of those displaced by natural disasters and wars and climate changes. There are people living in government camps, and

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for April 2019

Meditation Group meets every Sunday before services at 9:30 AM. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, April 7, 10:30 AM – “TRUTH: How do we find it?

How do we know it?”

With so many different versions of the truth floating around in our environment, how do we know what is real? Those who sow doubt and confusion benefit from false claims. Reality is clouded by “fake news”. How do we tell fact from fiction? Come share your wisdom with us.

SUNDAY, April 14, 10:30 AM – “Being Grateful For Home”

Sitting in our warm and comfortable homes, it is easy to forget that there are people all over the world who do not have homes. There are many people in Michigan who are homeless. As we appreciate our homes, let’s talk about how we can help those in need of homes.



SUNDAY, April 21, 10:30 AM – “Planting Seeds Of Hope And Love”

Easter reminds us of the life and death of Jesus, of the love he shared with all he knew, of the hope he gave us for a world in which all people could thrive. Join us as we plant some spring seeds and create a community of caring together.

SUNDAY, April 28, 10:30 AM – “More Than Skin Deep”

Today our topic is greater understanding of what it means to be a transgender person. We will try to imagine how it feels to be born into a body that doesn’t match who we really are. What difficulties would we face? How would we cope with all the complications? We will learn together about this important topic.

KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*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.



April dates to remember

Lunch Bunch
April 2, 12:30 pm at Draft Horse Brewery

Board Meeting –
April 8 at 6:30 pm at New Hope

Book Club
April 11, 7 pm at New Hope. We will be discussing “Sing Unburied Sing”

Easter Goodies Collection
April 14 for Mike’s Group Homes

Women of Hope
April 18, potluck dinner at 6:30 pm, program led by Elaine

Social Justice

Our Social Justice project for April will be making Easter treat bags for the residents cared for by Mike Fields. Please bring small sized, individually wrapped, store bought, treats to New Hope between 3/31-4/14. We will fill the bags on 4/14 to be ready for distribution on Easter.

If you would like to help, please contact Deb E.



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.

One of the services in April is open and everything beyond is wide open for greeters.

Dennis and I will not be at services from the end of March through mid-April. It will be great to fill these Sundays with greeters!

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

4/7 Corinne and Mike
4/14 Connie
4/21 Petra and Bonnie
4/28 _____



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.

4/07 Corinne

4/14 Deb

4/21 Bonnie and Robyn

4/28 _____