

# News of *Hope*



**New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**April 2021** 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

[www.newhopeuu.org](http://www.newhopeuu.org) 248-474-9108

As we enter this new month, it feels to me that we are entering a new phase in our Covid lives. After months of doing zoom meetings for everything, the time is coming when we will be making some decisions about how to change things for the future. Our Unitarian Universalist President, the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray has some wise words for us.

***Although there is good news on the horizon, we are not yet able to gather in person. We are in a critical phase of the pandemic where we need to reduce the spread of the virus to combat new variants while vaccine distribution continues.***

***Navigating this “in-between time” will be even more challenging than dealing with the early days of the pandemic. Those who are vaccinated may wish to start gathering in person sooner. Each person and family will have different levels of risk and risk tolerance. As congregations, we have to navigate complex decisions, taking into account the care of every person in our community. Our priority must continue to be abiding care for the most vulnerable, within and beyond our congregations.***



Like everyone else, I am eager to be fully vaccinated, and I'm so ready to go out into the world again. I want to kiss my Maryland daughter, hug my friends, and eat a meal in a restaurant or go on an adventure. I want life to be normal again. Yet, I understand Susan's trepidation about this “in-between” time.

Already with schools and sports reopening, our number of new Covid cases among young adults is skyrocketing in Michigan. In fact, the last I heard, we had the second highest new case rate in the country. So, while I am anxious for us to resume our get-togethers, I want us to remain cautious and vigilant.

At New Hope we have a wide variety of people of different ages and with different health issues. After being so careful for so long, I want us to be very deliberate in how we come together, so that no one is at risk and no one feels uncomfortable.

Because we are all different, we will have varying opinions on what we should do. Our goal will be to have open and honest conversations about our feelings, while we make the decisions necessary to keep everyone safe. How awful would it be, after all this time, to have one of us get sick, because we lacked the patience to wait a few more weeks?

On April 5, I will be participating in a webinar meeting led by the MidAmerica Region of the UUA on re-opening church. I hope to gain some guidance and ideas from others like us who are dealing with the same issues. Our New Hope board members are wise and knowledgeable people and they will guide us through this time of uncertainty. I also look forward to hearing what each of you has to say about our plans for the future.

So, for all of us, I wish vaccinations, and robust health, and patience. In our personal lives and in our church lives, I hope we can continue to make good decisions that promote our own well-being, as well as that of our neighbors and friends. Soon we will all be together again and it will be a sweet, sweet time, well worth waiting for! May it be so!!

Be safe and stay well!

**Love, Kathy**

## Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for April 2021

In the age of Covid-19, New Hope meets online at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. If you wish to join the service, please contact Denise Harris at [jutta474@yahoo.com](mailto:jutta474@yahoo.com), or Kathy Silver at [ksilver192@gmail.com](mailto:ksilver192@gmail.com). You will be notified of the link before the service. Please join us!



### SUNDAY, April 4, 10:30 AM – “Seeds Of Life”

Spring is a time of celebration in the world, a time of new light and new life. Christians celebrate Easter. The Jews honor Passover. The Persians have Nowruz. Seeds come to life all over the world. Please join our Unitarian Universalist celebration!

### SUNDAY, April 11, 10:30 AM – “Holi Hindu Festival”

In Hinduism, believers welcome spring with the Festival of Holi at the end of March. It is a day when love, colors and the triumph of good over evil are joyously celebrated. Come join us as we explore Hinduism and this exciting holiday.

### SUNDAY, April 18, 10:30 AM – “Restore Our Earth”

At New Hope each year, we take a Sunday to honor Earth Day and to talk about our Seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle: *“We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”* We will give thanks for the wonderful gifts which Mother Earth bestows on us, and we’ll think about ways that we can promote her well-being.



### SUNDAY, April 25, 10:30 AM – “Who Votes?”

After the biggest and most secure election in the history of our country, there are those who are trying to pass laws, which would withhold voting rights from large segments of our population. How can we work to help insure that voting in America is safe and fair for every person who is able to vote? Not one step back!

KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

\*Our Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 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.

## Announcements



### If you have your current pledge for New Hope, please send it

to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer,  
3796 Loon Lake Road  
Wixom, MI 48393

**Mike’s Group Homes** still need spray sanitizer and wipes, if you see any, please buy and leave at church.



## Social Justice Projects for April

**SOLES  
4  
SOULS**

New Hope will be collecting shoes for Soles4Souls this month. Soles4Souls is a nonprofit which answers the call for shoes wherever needed.

Any and all shoes are welcome (new, used, or worn out). Last year we collected 265 pairs of shoes.

A bin will be placed outside the church April 1<sup>st</sup>. Dates will be posted soon, for two Saturdays in April when we will be at church for those wanting to deliver their shoes in person.



“Where flowers bloom so does hope.”

– Lady Bird Johnson

## Calendar



### April 7

Lunch Bunch,  
12:30 on zoom

### April 8

Book Club,  
3:00 on zoom  
*This Tender Land* by William  
Ken Krueger  
May’s book:  
*The Four Winds* by  
Kristin Hannah

### April 12

Board Meeting,  
6:30 on zoom

### April 15,

Women of  
Hope, 6:30 on  
zoom

