

# News of *Hope*



April 2023 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

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*"One never knows the idyllic charm of our northern woods who has not seen them in April, when it is all a feast of birds and buds and waking life. This month belongs to the birds and flowers; but most of all to the robins, singing in jubilation at being back again, glad to find once more the corner of the earth that they were born in. Of all the birds of springtime, I would like best to be the robin just getting back to his old home; for it is brave and blithe and bonny that she is, and she is April to all of us in the far north."*

— Fannie Hardy Eckstorm,  
*The Penobscot Man*

I have yet to see a robin this spring, but I know they will soon be populating my backyard and hay field, searching for worms and bugs and berries. Here already, we have been welcoming back the red wing blackbirds, the common grackles, the cowbirds and a pair of kinglets. It is always exciting to see old friends that have been gone all winter. There was a flock of turkeys in the field. Then turkey vultures flew overhead, competing for air space with sandhill cranes, who are always the last to leave and the first to arrive. Spring is a wonderful, bird-filled time.

Last night Ed heard the spring peepers at dusk for the first time. I watched a video that said they live in vernal pools, and the songs we hear are the males searching for mates. Like the robins, they eat bugs, ants and spiders. They rest all day under leaves and bark so that they can sing their little hearts out at night. Winter nights covered in cold and snow are usually very quiet, but spring nights are alive with songs and activities!

In April, New Hope will also be alive with Sunday services and activities! We will begin the month with a service about **"Making Mistakes."** What would our world look like if no one made mistakes? Rather than being upset when we do something untoward, maybe we should think about our mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.

Our Easter service will be titled **"Lost and Found"**. When Jesus's followers found his body missing from his grave, they set about trying to find him. Sometimes we all feel lost and need to be found. This Sunday seems to be an appropriate day to talk about this.



**Poverty** continues to be an ongoing problem in our country and in our world. People who suffer poverty are often made to feel "less than" and they certainly have less than a lot of other people. On April 16, we'll talk about poverty and what we can do as a country and as Unitarian Universalists to help solve this problem. There is enough to go around. We just need to distribute our resources better.

On April 23, we will celebrate **Earth Day** at New Hope. In the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, the author asks: do we love the earth and does the earth love us back? In order for the earth to love us back, we need to care for her as much as she cares for us. This can mean many things. What does it mean to you?

The fifth Sunday of April will be **New Hope's Annual Spring Cleaning** Event. As we have in years past, we will polish and shine, clean and buff, dust and mop our happy church home together. Many hands make light work and in no time, we'll have New Hope ready for the warm weather and spring events. Pizza and love will be served to all!

Starting in May our summer **Charity Poker** Fundraising begins for New Hoppers. If you haven't signed up yet to work a shift, please contact Dennis Strasser and he will help you find a place. Besides raising funds for New Hope, this event gives us a great chance to spend time together and get to know folks that we may not know so well. Help our community and have fun at the same time! What could be better?

Also please remember, we need **greeters and hospitality** people every Sunday. Please sign up to do these important jobs. It is imperative on us to be as welcoming as we can be each Sunday. And people love a little treat to go with their coffee. Help us to be friendly and tasty!

We are getting ready to deliver our **Soles 4 Souls** this coming week. I think we may have a record number of shoes! We also need to remember to help fill our **Blessing Box** with soaps (not bars) and cleansers of all kinds. The government has taken away the extra money people were getting during Covid. We have neighbors who need our assistance!

**SPRING BLESSINGS ON YOU ALL**

*Love,*

*Kathy*

# Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for April 2023

New Hope Services begin at 10:30 am. If you have any questions about our Services or activities, please contact Kathy Silver, [ksilver192@gmail.com](mailto:ksilver192@gmail.com) or Denise Harris, [jutta474@yahoo.com](mailto:jutta474@yahoo.com). Thank you and hope to see you soon!

## April Calendar



**April 5** - Lunch Bunch, 12:30, Acapulco Mexican Grill, 675 W. Grand River, Brighton

**April 10** - Board Meeting, 3 pm at New Hope

**April 13** - Book Club, 3 pm at New Hope, "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley. Denise leads.

**April 20** - Women of Hope, 6:30, potluck dinner



### SUNDAY, April 2, 10:30 AM - "Making Mistakes – We All Do It"



Just think about where our world would be, if people only worked on ideas and projects they knew were correct. Imagine if we couldn't experiment with new things, if we could never be wrong. Doing things badly can be a very good

thing. I bet we can all think of mistakes we have made and what we learned. Come share with us!

### SUNDAY, April 9, 10:30 AM – "Lost And Found"

Easter is the Christian holy day that remembers how confused and lost Jesus's friends felt when they found his tomb empty. And how they celebrated when they believed he'd risen to heaven. How often do we feel lost when our lives take a difficult turn; when we feel hopeless and helpless, and then something happens to make us feel better? A friend helps us. We receive kindness we weren't expecting. Someone else feels our pain. We all experience being lost and found.



### SUNDAY, April 16, 10:30 AM - "Being Poor Is Not A Sin"

In our current culture, there are people who believe in the "Prosperity Gospel" preached in some churches. What exactly is this version of religion and what does it mean for people, who through no fault of their own, are not very prosperous? Does success really mean you are a favored by God because you are such a good person? What do you think?

### SUNDAY, April 23, 10:30 AM - "Love The Earth"

Without the Earth, there would be no "us". What should we do to show the Earth that we really do love and appreciate her? Indigenous peoples feel that our planet Mother is actually alive and in need of love and caring from us, her children. Come and share your thoughts and your actions with us.

### SUNDAY, April 30, 10:30 AM -

April is a five Sunday month. We will spend this last Sunday together at our Annual Spring Cleaning event. We'll polish & shine, clean & buff, dust & mop our happy church home together. Many hands make light work and in no time, we'll have New Hope ready for warm weather and spring events. Pizza and love will be served to all!



### 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 a pledge payment for New Hope, please send it to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer, New Hope, PO Box 375, New Hudson, MI 48165-1375, or put it in the basket at church. Thanks!

Remember: volunteers are needed to greet, host hospitality and clean up after each service. Sign-up sheets are on tables in the front room.

*Please help stock the Blessing Box and also bring Peanut Butter and Jelly for Active Faith*

### Hospitality for April

04/02 Denise  
04/09 Corinne  
04/16 Connie  
04/23 Sue  
04/30 Pizza for Spring Clean-up

Hi Everyone  
I'm looking for people to sign up for hospitality. It's really not hard, you'd need to bring in a couple of items to share, a sweet and something healthy. There is not much to clean-up and I'm almost always there to help you. Thank you to those of you that volunteer to help me out.  
Corinne  
Hospitality

## Greeters

04/02 Connie B  
04/09 Corinne & Mike K  
04/16 Robyn  
04/23 Sue M  
04/30 -----

The calendar for end April and beyond is wide open for greeters. Email me @ [kzaenger@comcast.net](mailto:kzaenger@comcast.net) to sign up or use the sign-up sheet on the hospitality table.

## SERVICE PROJECT FOR MOTHER EARTH



**Do something to help the Earth.**  
Pick up trash in your neighborhood.  
Make a garden and grow plants that the bees and butterflies love. Donate to a group that helps wildlife or trees. Help to eradicate invasive species in your area.  
**Show your love!**