



“I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

from Brene Brown

The quotation to the left seems appropriate because I know that New Hope has been watching TED Talks by Brene Brown during the month of July. I also know that New Hope is all about connections: the connection we feel toward each other as members and friends, the connection we feel toward those with whom we share our peace and justice work, and the connection we feel towards all the inhabitants of the earth because they are worthy of our love and respect. A life without connections would be lonely and bleak.

As a way of strengthening our community connections, New Hope co-sponsored the SOUTH LYON PRIDE FESTIVAL on July 8 at McHattie Park. It was a wonderful day! At our booth, we gave out rainbow flags, bracelets made by Tracie Naffin, bubbles to blow and sticky hands to throw. The kids loved our gifts and we talked to many wonderful people. THANK YOU to the New Hoppers who came and staffed the booth, especially those who arrived early to raise the tent, and those who stayed late to take it down. We saw some old friends and made some new ones, a perfect day!

Thanks also to our CHARITY POKER WORKERS. Once again our hard work paid off and New Hope is in better financial shape than ever. **Dennis Strasser** is our leader here and a number of people worked more than one shift to fill all our slots. In August, we will have one more stint of poker and then we will probably be done for the rest of the year. Kudos to everyone who contributes to this worthwhile activity. THREE CHEERS FOR YOU!!

August is looking like a fun and interesting month at New Hope. We start on the first Sunday, August 6, **11am**, with our **Animal Blessing Service at Fox Trot Farm** in Dexter. Carpool from New Hope. Bring your friends and pets. Come for a short outdoor service under the trees, where we'll have a chance to learn a little bit about all our critters and then offer our blessings upon them. After church there will be a potluck picnic with franks and burgers grilled by Ed. Usually there are lots of delicious desserts to choose from. Directions will be available in a few days, so watch your email. Our August Service Project will be collecting for the Livingston County ANIMAL SHELTER. They are always in need of donations and supplies and are very grateful when we support them. Sue will provide us with a list of what they need. Keep an eye out for that and thanks for your generosity.

Right now, it is looking like August 13 will be a service on “**Democracy from a UU Perspective**”. Both our faith and our country are built on the ideal of democracy, but each has a different take on what that means. As election time nears, democracy can become more muddled and complicated. What things about democracy mean the most to you? What do you want to see?

August 20 will be a service led by Kathy Zaenger: “**The Interconnectedness and Beauty of the Natural World**” - an interview with Robin Wall Kimmerer the author of “Braiding Sweetgrass”

The title of August 27 will be “**Music On My Mind**”. Our musician friends Laz and Jennifer will be here to enliven and entertain us. Music can comfort and relax us. It can revive our spirits and nourish our souls. What does music do for you? Bring your ideas and favorite songs.

It seems to me that August is sometimes bittersweet because it brings the feeling of the end of summer. Yet summer lasts for a few more weeks, so I hope everyone enjoys it. The kids go back to school, but we don't have to!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for giving me time off for vacation. It is great to have a few weeks to garden, paint, fix things and travel and not feel like the time is being stolen from something more important. I really appreciate those of you who fill in for me when I am gone. It means the world to me and is good practice for you!

**Enjoy the sun and the warmth, and even the rain.
Stay safe and have fun! See you in Church.**

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for August 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 or Denise Harris, jutta474@yahoo.com. Thank you and hope to see you soon!



SUNDAY, August 6, 11:00 AM - "Blessing Our Animals at Fox Trot Farm"

We will gather this day with our pets to celebrate the joys of friendship and inter-species relationships. All of us have animals that we treasure: birds, bees, deer, dogs, possums, squirrels, and cats, to name a few. You are invited to bring your favorite animal in whatever form you like. There will be water and treats for dogs and a potluck picnic for people, with burgers and franks grilled by Ed. Don't miss the fun!!

SUNDAY, August 13, 10:30 AM - "Democracy from a UU Perspective"

Our country and our faith are both based on democratic principles. Exactly what principles are we talking about and how do we practice and uphold them? As Unitarian Universalists we just elected a new Association president for the next six years. As Americans we are entering the start of another major election cycle. Already we are inundated with ads, pleas for donations and unfounded facts. What is a UU to do? What do you think? How do you feel about it all?

SUNDAY, August 20, 10:30 AM - "The Interconnectedness and Beauty of the Natural World"

An interview with Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of "Braiding Sweetgrass" led by Kathy Zaenger.

SUNDAY, August 27, 10:30 AM - "Music On My Mind"

We hope you'll join us for a service honoring the place of music and song in our human experience. How does music comfort and relax us? How does singing revive our spirits and nourish our souls? What would our lives feel like without these gifts? Our favorite guest musician Laz Slomovits of Gemini and his friend Jennifer Burd will join us with his talents and treasures. Don't miss this wonderful experience!



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.



August



6th - *Animal Blessing Service, 11 am* at Fox Trot Farm. Bring pets, photos, stuffies. Share the animals you love!

8th - Book Club, New Hope 1 pm. *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

August 9, 10, 11, 12, *Charity Poker.* Please sign up if you haven't.

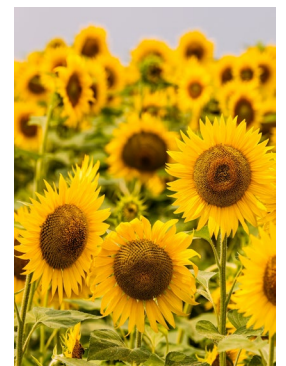
14th - Board Meeting, 3 pm, New Hope

16th - Lunch Bunch, 12:30 Zukey Lake Tavern, 5011 Girard Dr., Pinckney

17th - Women's Group, 6:30 pm at Turtlehead, Kensington Park, potluck picnic

September 3, no Church service, Labor Day Holiday weekend

September 23, FELLOWSHIP DINNER, mark your calendars so you don't miss it!



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 bring Peanut Butter and Jelly for Active Faith

Also, remember to sign-up for Charity Poker!

Greeters

The calendar for dates in September and beyond are wide open for greeters. Please sign up if you are available. Email: kzaenger@comcast.net to sign up or use the sign-up sheet on the hospitality table.

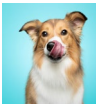
08/06 Meeting at Fox Trot Farm

08/13 Corinne & Mike

08/20 Robyn

08/27 Open for

"Your Name Here"



SERVICE PROJECT for August

Each year in August, New Hope collects for the Livingston County Animal Shelter. The animals and the workers are very grateful for the donations we provide. *Thanks for supporting them!*

Hospitality for August

August 06 Services at Fox Trot Farm
 August 13 Corinne
 August 20 Connie with Corinne
 August 27 Diann



Save the Date

Fall Fellowship Potluck Dinner



Saturday
 September 23, 2023