

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

December 2021 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

“In a way, winter is the real spring, the time when the inner things happen, the resurgence of nature.”
(Edna O’Brien - 1978)

“There is a privacy about it which no other season gives you....
Only in winter can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself.”
(Ruth Stout - 1955)

After almost two years of dealing with COVID solitude, it is hard to think of winter as being a joy, because it allows us more time to be alone. For many of us, there has been more than enough alone time lately. Yet there is a benefit to spending time with oneself.

Curling up with a good book in a warm place is always a winter pleasure. A cup of tea or cocoa makes it even better. Standing outside on a cold, clear, crisp night, and enjoying the moon and the stars, is a peaceful way to end a busy day of holiday bustle. Driving through town and appreciating the lights and decorations helps us to see the beauty and warmth of our community. Baking some special treats for those we love can make us feel warm and fuzzy inside. And who doesn't love cookies and candies?

At the beginning of the month, New Hope will hold its annual business meeting after church on December 5. After our election of board officers and a couple of business reports, we will get down to the serious business of decorating for the coming holiday. So plan on staying a little later on this Sunday. By the time we leave for home, New Hope will look like Christmas!

In this month of December, we will be trying to honor this season of gratitude and giving, in discussions, stories and songs. Our first service of the month is called “Only Love Here.” The title is inspired by a new song of Laz’s called “No Hate Here.” Laz isn’t able to be with us in person, so we will be sharing a couple of his songs through recordings.

On December 12, we will be learning about and discussing “The Eighth UU Principle”, which affirms and promotes “journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” There are a number of ideas to unpack here. I hope that everyone will come and help us.

On the third Sunday of the month, New Hope will hold our Annual Holiday Music Service. We will sing some old favorites, and listen to some beautiful renditions of classic tunes. We will laugh together and join our voices in the “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, a New Hope Tradition. Sue always gets to sing “five golden rings”, but everyone gets a chance to sing something! We hope you will come and be a part of this festive and fun morning.

Our annual Christmas Eve Service is entitled “What Would Jesus Do?” when the letters WWJD were appearing on plastic bracelets and on notes and in unexpected places? I knew lots of people who had those little brightly colored wristbands. The phrase hasn’t been used for a long time. Yet it seems to me that it holds important questions for our society, which thinks of itself as religious and founded on biblical principles. What would Jesus do? What would Jesus think if he were right here with us today? How would the world be different if we did things the way Jesus would? On this celebration of the birth of one of our greatest prophets, let’s spend some time thinking about his teachings and what they mean for us as Unitarian Universalists.



If you are able, please try to contribute to our Active Faith Service Projects this month. The first is providing children’s warm, water resistant gloves and mittens for families’ holiday gift boxes. The deadline for this project is December 19. The second project is the collection of new and gently used winter items like coats, hats, scarves, and blankets. These will be collected until February.

Thank you to all of our generous members who each month take on a different service project. Thanks to Deb Edford and the other members who lead us in these endeavors. Part of New Hope’s mission is to be of service in our community. That is a goal that we take very seriously.

At the end of the year, we also want to thank Corinne Kelleher for her leadership of our hospitality crew and Kathy Zaenger for gathering our greeters. New Hope is a more welcoming place for everyone because of the efforts of those who help to make things run smoothly.

Also I send out a quick thanks to all our board members who meet monthly and keep things running smoothly. Denise Harris, our fearless president, does a great job of keeping all of us on our toes. Brian Tyler, our volunteer building manager, also deserves a shout out for his helpful and reliable service year after year.

New Hope is a well functioning congregation because many people contribute their time and treasure to ensure our success. Everyone is appreciated and everyone is loved.

As we move through this month together, let us remember that, though we all want to have a good time, some of us also carry pain and loss, which is exacerbated by the holidays. New Hope is a loving and welcoming place, no matter how you are feeling.

May it be so!

Happy Hanukkah!

Merry Christmas!

Joyful Kwanzaa!

*Love,
Kathy*



Hospitality



Please consider signing up to host hospitality. It really is easy! You will need to bring in a couple of snacks to share with your friends, and I will help you with the clean up. I am grateful to everyone who continues to help me out each week.

Corinne
Hospitality Comm.

12/05/21	Bonnie
12/12/21	-----
12/19/21	Corinne
12/24/21	Christmas Eve Everyone brings Cookies to Share
12/26/21	No Service

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECTS

Thank you for your generosity

We are collecting new, water resistant children's gloves and mittens for each Active Faith Christmas Basket. Deadline is December 19.

We are also collecting new and gently used winter items for Active Faith: coats and jackets, hats and scarves, blankets, etc.



Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for December 2021

New Hope are meeting in person again at church. We are wearing masks. 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 see you in church!

SUNDAY, December 5, 10:15 AM - "Only Love Here"

As we begin the Christmas Season, come and join us as we think about creating a peaceful, free and fair world. This is a time of year to ponder sharing, and gratitude, and just getting along. We will share a couple of songs from our friend Laz. Bring your thoughts and feelings.



SUNDAY, December 12, 10:30 AM – "The Eighth UU Principle"

What is it? Why does it matter? How did it come into existence? Come and explore with us this possible new principle of Unitarian Universalism. Congregations all over the country are discussing and considering this addition to our Seven UU Principles. What do we think about it? Join us and learn more.



SUNDAY, December 19, 10:30 AM – "Sing We Now of Christmas"

Come with us, as we spend this Sunday morning in holiday songs and stories. We will sing some old favorites, and listen to some beautiful renditions of classic tunes. We will laugh together and join our voices in the "The Twelve Days Of Christmas", a New Hope Tradition. Don't miss this festive service!

FRIDAY, December 24, "What Would Jesus Do?"

Once again on this celebration of the birth of Jesus, we want to honor the teachings of this very important prophet in the history of the world. Yet, today there are so many different problems and areas where people disagree. If we could only stop opinionating for a few moments and think about what Jesus would say or do, maybe we could solve some of our issues. Let's think about what we could learn from Jesus. Please bring some holiday snacks to share.

SUNDAY, December 26, NO service due to the Holiday Weekend 

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.



December Calendar



12/5

Last day to bring food donations for our November Food Pantry Drive

New Hope Annual Membership Meeting, right after service

Holiday decorating after service and annual meeting

12/7

Lunch Bunch, , 12:30 pm at Tomato Brothers (3030 W. Grand River, Howell).

12/13

Board Meeting, 3:00 pm at New Hope

12/16

Women of Hope, Dec. 16, 6:30 pm at New Hope.
(Please bring a dish to share and feminine hygiene products to donate.)

Announcements

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

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

or put it in our offering basket on Sunday morning.

Remember to bring in items to stock the Blessings Box.

Don't Forget!

December 5th: Annual Congregation Meeting and Holiday Decorating

Greeters

December 5 Bonnie C

December 12 Diann H

December 19 Corinne & Mike K

December 24

Jan. 2, 2022 Sue M

January has openings for volunteers.

The sign-up sheet is on the hospitality table.

