

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

December 2022 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

According to these special folks, the holidays mean many different things to different people. At New Hope, they are a time for festivities and fun, and also a time for giving to others and reflecting on our lives. Our services will look at different aspects of the season.

At the beginning of December, we will learn about **Advent**, a time of solemn preparation for Christmas, observed by our Christian family and friends. What is an advent wreath and what are the special candle colors? Where did these ideas and practices come from? Come and join us as we learn together.

On December 11, we will hold our **Annual New Hope Christmas Sing**. There will be old classics and beautiful music, a story or two, and our special favorite, an all-church rendition of the "Twelve Days Of Christmas". Everyone needs to tune up and practice their favorite lines! Sue always sings "5 Golden Rings". Don't miss the fun!

On December 18, our service will be about **Hanukkah**. This ancient Jewish celebration starts at sundown on this day. It often coincides with Christmas Festivities. What is the meaning of this holiday for our Jewish family and friends? What does Hanukkah teach us about faith and about working for what we believe in?



On **Christmas Eve**, New Hope members and friends will gather at 5:30 for a service called "Wisdom For The Ages". As we honor the birth of Jesus, one of the world's great prophets, let us take some time to also think about the wisdom of those who have lived wisely and long. No matter what age we are, we can always learn important lessons from those who have come before. Join us for a Christmas Eve of song, story, candlelight and joy. After the service, we'll have a special coffee hour with holiday treats!

For our **December Service Project**, we have an unusual gift request from Active Faith. They are in need of underwear, new, packaged underwear for all sizes and shapes and types of people. We have never been asked to purchase underwear before. Usually it is hats or mittens or blankets or socks. But here at New Hope we are up to the challenge before us. I know that we will all be happy to make sure there are plenty of undies to go around.

Our **November Food Drive for Active Faith** brought in lots of pasta, cereal and other needed items. A BIG THANKS to everyone who made this project a success. A SPECIAL THANKS TO CORINNE AND MIKE for delivering the food to Active Faith.

The winter holidays are a bustling and busy time for many people. But for some folks, the holidays bring back bad memories and difficult situations in their lives. As we are celebrating the season, let's be aware of the needs of those around us. Let us be sensitive to the feelings of others. Let us remember to take some quiet time reflect on the love and blessings which we enjoy.



I wish you all a wonderful winter holiday season filled with family and friends and fun! Enjoy the magic of the lights, the beauty of the music, and the warmth of loving family and friends.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

Love,
Kathy

"I am grateful for what I am and have.
My Thanksgiving is perpetual."
-Henry David Thoreau



"Christmas will always be, as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."
-Dr. Seuss



"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."
-Maya Angelou



"Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind."

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for December 2022

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, December 4, 10:30 AM - "Preparing"

Each year, Christian Churches all over the world celebrate the holy season of Advent in preparation for the coming of Christmas. This ancient tradition helps people to remember the religious significance of the holiday that honors Jesus's birth. What can Advent mean to Unitarian Universalists? Come and prepare for Christmas!

SUNDAY, December 11, 10:30 AM - "Let Us Sing"



Each year on a Sunday before Christmas, New Hope welcomes the holiday in song and story. Please join us as we sing, and share, and laugh together. We'll perform our famous version of the "Twelve Days of Christmas". (Sue is always #5.) Everyone gets an opportunity to shine! Don't miss the fun!!

SUNDAY, December 18, 10:30 AM - "Festival of Freedom And Lights"

At sundown on this day, our Jewish friends and family will begin their annual celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. The freedom of religion that the Hebrews fought for in ancient times, is meaningful for Unitarian Universalists, who believe that all people have the right to self determination and democracy. Come and celebrate these universal values with us!



SATURDAY, December 24, 5:30 PM - "Wisdom for the Ages"

On this Christmas Eve, as we honor the birth of Jesus, one of the world's great prophets, let us take some time to also think about the wisdom of those who have lived wisely and long. No matter what age we are, we can always learn important lessons from those who have come before. Join us for a Christmas Eve of song, story, candlelight and joy. (No service on 12/25/22)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023. There will be NO Service on this day because of the NEW YEAR'S holiday. Have a fun weekend with family and friends!

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 pledge for New Hope, please send it to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer, 3796 Loon Lake Road, Wixom, MI 48393, or put it in the basket at church. Thanks!

PLEASE HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX AND BRING PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY FOR ACTIVE FAITH

SERVICE PROJECTS

- We are collecting food for the Pantry at Active Faith. Last day to donate is Sunday, December 4.
- We are collecting new, packaged underwear for Active Faith in South Lyon, all types and sizes are welcome and needed. Last day to bring donations is December 18.

Greeters

Dec. 4 Kathy Z and Dennis S
Dec. 11 Diann H
Dec. 18 Corinne & Mike K
Dec. 24



The calendar for January and beyond is wide open for greeters. Email me @ kzaenger@comcast.net to sign up or use the sign-up sheet on the hospitality table.

Hospitality for December

12/04/22 Diann
12/11/22 Patricia
12/18/22 Corinne
12/24/22 Christmas Eve
everyone brings cookies to share
12/25/22 Christmas-no service



December Calendar



December 4, New Hope's Annual Congregational Meeting and holiday decorating, right after our Sunday Service

Lunch Bunch holiday gathering on **Tuesday, December 6** at 12:30 at Weber's in Ann Arbor (3050 Jackson Ave)

December 11 - 31, Annual New Hope Pledge Drive

December 12, Board Meeting, 11:15 am

December 15, Women of Hope, 6:30 pm

