

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

February 2018 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

- Edith Sitwell



By my calculations, winter here in Michigan lasts basically from December through March. So on February 1, we are halfway through the cold, snow and darkness. I know that the groundhog will probably think that we'll have six more weeks of winter, but I am planning on eight, just to be on the safe side. It's been kind of an odd winter with some super cold days, and then some warm spells. I guess winter is following the pattern of the past year, kind of odd.

February is a good month to have a party! Deb and I were thinking New Hope could have a **GAMES AND MOVIE NIGHT** on Friday, February 23. We could gather about 7 at church, bringing our favorite games and movies, and also some snacks to share. The movie people can decide what show they would like to watch on our brand new **BIG** screen TV.

The games people can set up at the tables in the front room. Hopefully the weather will cooperate by not blizzarding! Come and enjoy the warmth of friends at New Hope!

For our services in February we are focusing on a social justice theme beginning with a service about **Black Lives UU**. February is Black History Month in the United States, so we think it is good time to talk about the work of racial justice in our association and in our country. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us: *"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

To celebrate Valentines Day we will practice random acts of kindness. There are so many things that we all can do to improve someone else's day. Most of us are in the habit of being kind to our family and friends, but what about how we treat complete strangers? What about the people who irritate us, the people we perceive as trying to make our lives miserable? Don't they also deserve kindness?

Deb Tyler suggested **#MeToo** as another good topic for this month. For the first time since the matriarchy fell, women's rights have risen to the forefront and have been staying there. The news is full of women speaking out on the injustices done to them, and society seems to be listening in a way that feels different to me. Here in Michigan we have our own horror story of the sexual assault of more than a hundred female gymnasts by the doctor entrusted with their care. What has changed to nurture this new movement? What do we do with our rage? How can we encourage and support greater justice for all women, and all men, too?

me too.

On the last Sunday of the month, Deb will lead a service about how we can use social media to help find spiritual growth and well-being. If we carefully choose what we follow and read on line, we can enrich our lives with the experiences and wisdom of others who choose to share through this medium. Deb says to bring your smart phone, tablet or laptop with you to church on February 25.

As we plow and plod through February, we will have some fun together. We will learn about some new ideas from each other. We will try to practice our faith as individuals, and also as a committed community of people determined to bring more justice and love into our needy world. There is no expiration date on kindness.

SOLES 4 SOULS

REMEMBER TO BRING IN YOUR USED SHOES FOR SOLES 4 SOULS. All sizes, types, and conditions are welcome and useful.

Please join us on Sunday mornings.

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for February 2018

Meditation Group meets every Sunday before services from 9:30 – 10:15 AM. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"White Supremacy Is Bad For Our Souls"

For the past year or so, the Black Lives UU organization has been trying to teach Unitarian Universalists about white supremacy. What has it been doing to the soul of America? How do we feel when our actions, as a society, do not live up to our ideals and our Bill of Rights. What can we do to honor the heritage of peoples of color and their contributions to our lives?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Start A Kindness Revolution"

The month of St. Valentine is the perfect time to start a kindness revolution. It's usually easy to be kind to those we know and love. How about showing kindness toward a complete stranger? What if we give a kindness anonymously? How does it feel to receive a random act of kindness? Come and share your stories of giving and receiving kindness.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"# ME TOO"

This women's movement protesting sexual assault and harassment has been gaining in momentum and strength both in our country and around the world. Half of all people are women. It is time for their voices to be heard. What can we do to support women as they strive for equality and justice? What can we do to support all people in their quest for dignified lives? How does the #ME TOO movement make you feel?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
10:30 AM

DEB TYLER
KATHY SILVER

"Spirituality and Social Media"

Deepak Chopra says "We cannot stop the progress of our technology — it is an unstoppable force — so what we do is we harness it for good." Many people think that Social Media has no redeeming value, that it squanders people's time, spreads drama and hostility, and is the end of face-to-face interactions. What we will learn together is how to use social media for spiritual well-being and growth through both practical and personal choices. Bring your smart phone, tablet or laptop with you!



KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DEB TYLER MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR

*Our Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 a. m. Services last until 11:30 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.



Our Faith, Who We Are

FLAMING CHALICE: SYMBOL OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) is a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations kindle a flaming chalice in gatherings and worships and feature the chalice symbol prominently.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.

Our current official UUA logo debuted in 2014, offering a visual representation of a modern and dynamic faith. Unitarian Universalist congregations are free to use the UUA's logo in their congregational work, but they are not required to do so. Because of this, you may see many different styles of flaming chalices and other images used by Unitarian Universalist congregations.



--From UUA.org

Hospitality



Please consider signing up for Sunday hospitality. The duties are simple and are posted on the refrigerator along with the sign up sheet. Many thanks to those of you who continue to provide this valuable service to our congregation.

2/4/2018 Denise
2/11/2018 Corinne
2/18/2018 Jill
2/25/2018 Elaine

Greeter Sign-up



To welcome everyone who comes each Sunday, we seek two Greeters to be here by 10:15 each week: One near the front door to show them where to hang coats, the sign-in sheet, hospitality area and the community room. The Second to give the visitors a visitor's bag, name tag and tell them about the congregation. This will help our congregation grow in size and community.

Anyone can send me an email to let me know which Sunday they'd like to be greeter: kzaenger@comcast.net

2/4/2018 Denise
2/11/2018 Deb E.
2/18/2018 Jill & Dave
2/25/2018 Sue

March is open for more volunteers.

February 2018

Dates to remember

Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

Meditation Group 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

February 7 - Lunch Bunch, 12:30 at Shakers in Wixom. Please RSVP to Casey.



February 8 - Book Club at New Hope (Picking Cotton by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton)



February 12 - Board Meeting, 7:00 at New Hope. All are welcome to attend.

February 15 - Women of Hope meeting, 6:30 at New Hope. Bring a Dish to pass.

February 23 - Movie/ Game night at New Hope. 7:00 PM. Bring games, movies, snacks & drinks if you like. Friends are welcome!

Charity Poker Dates



Wed. March 3rd - Sat. March 10th

Please contact Dennis to volunteer for a shift -we appreciate your help with this important fundraiser.

SOLES 4 SOULS

Keep bringing your donations of used shoes in to New Hope for **Soles 4 Soles**. We will be collecting them through mid-February.