

# News of *Hope*

**New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**February 2020**

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*"We all need a reason to keep going" said the horse.*

*"What's yours?"*

*"You three" said the fox.*

*"Getting home" said the boy.*

*"Cake" said the mole.*

And so you are now introduced to the four characters of Charlie Mackesy's new book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*. On February sixteenth, this book will be the focus of our Valentines service. Each of these characters has ideas, which you will find charming, and wisdom, which you will admire. I am pleased and excited to share this wonderful story with you.

On the first two Sundays in February, we will continue with our series on climate injustice. Unfortunately we missed two weeks of services because of bad January weather, so we are making up for lost time. I really dislike having to cancel our service, but it would be worse if one of us got hurt trying to go out on the ice. So our New Hope board opts for safety, and we should all be grateful.

Climate injustice affects not just the people who are the victims of terrible storms and droughts and fires, but it also takes a toll on the animals and on the plants and trees. The beings, who contribute the least to the degradation of our climate, are the ones who suffer the most from all the changes. I hope that you will join us as we learn more about this important topic.

On the last Sunday of February, we will start our discussion of gender bias and injustice. As Unitarian Universalists we believe that all people have inherent worth and dignity regardless of their sexual genders, preferences or orientations. Our United States constitution says that all people are equal under the law. Yet in our country, there are still states and legislators who are trying to discriminate against women and against LGBTQ people in housing, employment and military service.

New Hope Congregation has been a Welcoming Congregation for many years. We have always offered a warm handshake to everyone who comes through our doors. Each year we have some services that highlight the issues and the ideas of LGBTQ people. This year, we will spend some time working together to renew our status as a Welcoming Congregation with the UUA. This will include some Sunday service topics, observing special days and celebrations and religious education. We can all benefit from becoming better informed about this timely and valuable topic.



It's kind of hard to believe but winter is almost half over, if you count it as the four months from December through March. In my opinion, that is a good thing. More good news is that our upstairs apartment has been refurbished and rented again. Many thanks to Dan Naffin for all of his great work painting and repairing the place. Thanks also to our Board President Denise Harris, and all our board members, who put in extra time and energy to get the job done. Hats off to all of you for your dedication to this important New Hope project. Blessings on you all!!

**See you in church!**

**Love, Kathy**

## News of Hope

### Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for February 2020

Meditation Group meets every Sunday before services at 9:30 AM. All are welcome.

#### SUNDAY, February 2, 10:30 AM – “The Year of the Rat”

As the Chinese celebrate the “Year of the Rat”, so should we be concerned with all the animals and how they are adapting and changing to survive in a warming and watery world. What rights do the animals have to live in a safe and appropriate environment? Who care about their needs? New Hope is a congregation of animal lovers. What to do? What to do?

#### SUNDAY, February 9, 10:30 AM – “Who Will Speak For The Trees?”

Today, we will explore how the changing and warming climate is harming the trees and plants. What is happening in our fields and forests? All around us the world is full of life that is striving to sustain and propagate itself. How can we help? What should we be doing?

#### SUNDAY, February 16, 10:30 AM – “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse”

I have a wonderful new story to share with you by the cartoonist and writer, Charlie Mackesy. The characters are enchanting, the pictures are wonderful, and the message offers hope for our world. Come and meet my newest friends!

#### SUNDAY, February 23, 10:30 AM – “Gender and Justice”

Today we are embarking on a series of services about gender and justice. How do your sexual preferences and your gender affect your access to justice? What progress have we made and what must we still do in order to insure that people of all persuasions are treated fairly. New Hope is a Welcoming Congregation. Let’s work together to renew that status.

KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

\*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.

### February dates to remember

**Feb. 5,** Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm at Stout Irish Pub, 125 East Grand River, Brighton

**Feb. 10,** Board Meeting, 6:30 pm at New Hope

**No Book Club in February**

**Feb. 21,** Women of Hope, 6:30 Pot Luck, led by Casey

**Feb. 26-29,** Charity Poker Fundraiser  
Sign up with Dennis to help New Hope pay our bills

### Hospitality

Volunteering for Hospitality entails that you bring in 2 food items to share, ex: cookies an fruit, and then a little clean up at the end of coffee hour. Please consider signing up!

02/02 -----  
02/09 Bonnie & Robyn  
02/16 Corinne  
02/23 -----

### SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

#### GAYT EXTENDED FOR ONE WEEK

New Hope’s January Social Justice Project is the UU Service Committee’s Program, “**Guest At Your Table**”. Each week we will take a few minutes to learn about the important work of the UUSC and take contributions. After the first week in February, our donations will be sent to the UUSC to continue their work on behalf of Unitarians everywhere.



#### SOLES 4 SOULS COLLECTION IN FEBRUARY

In February, our Project will be collecting shoes for **SOLES 4 SOULS**. Gather up your gently used to hopeless shoes. Don’t throw them out. They are valuable! Bring them to New Hope. Bonnie Campbell spearheads this vital project.

## Greeter Sign Up

To welcome everyone who comes each Sunday, we are seeking two greeters to come 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 nametag 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](mailto:kzaenger@comcast.net)

Feb. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Feb. 9 Bonnie & Robyn  
Feb. 16 Corinne & Mike  
Feb. 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks, Kathy Z.

## Environmental Justice Reading Group

Our group will meet on **March 22, 2020** following services at New Hope. We will continue our exploration of Justice on Earth- the UUA common read.

Please do not forget the Blessing Box. And a huge Thank you to all of you that help me out with your generous contributions! -- Corinne

## Book Club

There will be no book club in February. Our March book club will meet on March 12 at 3:00pm at New Hope. We will be discussing "What the Eyes Don't See" by Mona Hanna Attisha. Please join us as we discuss this informative book on the Flint water crises.



We UUs have a legacy of working to expand democracy to shape a world in which all people are free and flourishing.

As progressive people of faith we can seize the opportunity the current electoral cycle offers us to meet and talk with our neighbors, fight for our values, expand democracy and be part of crucial organizing on the many issues we care about for justice.

Over the coming weeks we'll be sharing news and updates on how our work is unfolding, as well as practical tips for how you as an individual or groups within a congregation can take action.

Check [uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org) regularly, as we are updating and adding content each week. This week we published 50+ Ways You Can UU the Vote. Here's a sample:

- Be part of Early Voting Drives ([check early voting requirements](#))
- Connect with your [UU State Action Network](#) (22 states have one)
- Sign up to be an elections monitor in districts with known voter suppression issues
- Use your second language skills and help register new citizens
- Send invitations to local groups letting them know meeting space is available at your church
- Register college students on campus as well as high school students who will be 18 by November 2020

The 2020 election cycle is a benchmark—not an endpoint—in our long-term work toward justice. No matter the outcome on November 4, there will be much work to do to help move the country forward. Let's #VoteLove.

UU the Vote Team

[uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org)