

News of Hope



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2018

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"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential."

— Ellen Goodman



At certain points in our lives, it is probably a good habit to spend some time taking stock of our situations. It is probably also a good idea occasionally to make commitments to renew our ideals, remember where we came from, and how we got to where we are. I agree with Ellen Goodman, though, that the New Year is a time full of potential and hope. We should focus on the potential of the future, rather than on the past faults and flaws of our habits and personalities.

In many of the quotations I found, it talked about the New Year as a book full of 365 blank pages, which we are now required to fill. I would prefer to think of each day as an opportunity for us to live our values and show kindness to the world, not because anyone is keeping track of our behavior, but because doing this will help us to feel that we are living good and satisfying lives. There are so many things over which we have no control, but we can always act out of love for our human and animal brothers and sisters.

At New Hope this January, we will be having a foot-filled month. Our service project will be collecting shoes for **Soles4Souls**. So clean out your closets and basement boxes. Bring in those shoes that are too big, too small, too high, too ugly and just plain mistakes! You don't need to hang onto them because you feel guilty that you bought them. You don't need to keep telling yourself that you really will wear them someday. A person far away might appreciate those shoes and be glad to have them. They are not doing any good on your closet floor, but they could really help someone else!

Going along with our foot theme, we will start off the month with a service about the difficulty of walking in someone else's shoes. We all know people who hold different opinions from us, but what we don't often do is explore how their experiences shaped their attitudes. By trying to understand them better, we may find that we have more in common with them than we thought. Our commonalities may lead us to better communications and a kinder connection. We will think more on this.



Our feet are one of the important ways that we feel connected to the earth. On January 21, our service will focus on our Seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle, affirming and promoting respect for the interdependent web of all existence. We are a part of the natural world and it is a part of us. Our feet and gravity remind us that we are all one with the universe.

By the time the end of January rolls around, we will be ready for a Sunday of wit and humor. "Oh The Things A Foot Can Do" will be our last service of the month. Besides a Dr. Seuss story, we will look at the foot throughout the world. What functions does it serve? Does everyone play footsie? Where would we be without the foot? If you know any good foot jokes, today would be the day!

As New Hope starts the new calendar year, our board members change a bit. We would like to thank Dave McIntyre for the good work he did as our president for the past two years. He led us through our first two years after the minister's retirement. Everyone joined together to help our church community to become stronger. Denise Harris will now take over the leadership of the board. Jack Schneider will become the new vice-president. Our gratitude to them and to all our board members is heartfelt. New Hope needs a strong and well-functioning board to thrive.



Though our membership numbers don't change much, New Hope continues to grow in spirit and in generosity. We contribute more to the welfare of our Lyon Township community and to the world at large. Our Blessing Box is the first in our area, and we are doing a social justice project almost every month. Every person in this congregation is a vital and contributing member. You are all what makes New Hope successful. We are family!

May 2018 be a year of good will and many blessings!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for January 2018

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Our Aching Feet"

Over the past few weeks many of us have been spending time with family members and friends who might feel differently from us about the many issues confronting us during these confusing and difficult times. This morning we will try to walk a mile in someone else's shoes. We will try to understand how their experiences and backgrounds influence their views on the issues of our day. Come and bring your stories!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

SOLES 4 SOULS

New Hope's January service project is collecting shoes for a different kind of charity. Come and join us as we learn about "Soles4Souls". What makes it special? Where do our shoes go? Why are shoes important? What is a microenterprise? We hope that you will join us as we discuss New Hope's latest project.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Standing Like A Tree"



So begins a wonderful song about how our feet connect us to the earth. As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We honor the earth and all her creatures. How do our feet help us to feel one with our planet? Bring your feet to New Hope this morning for an earthbound experience.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

"Oh The Things A Foot Can Do!"

We will end our "Foot Month" with a service that sings the praises of the foot. Where would we be without the foot? The foot serves many purposes in our world and it is well known to just about everyone on earth. Join us for some foot humor and some foot games. The end of January calls for some fun!

A HAPPY, SAFE AND ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR TO ALL

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.



MUUSJN Accomplishments & Highlights

2017 was a tough year for justice. Under our new President, the dignity of women, people of color, immigrants, poor and LGBTQ people were under attack. However, Unitarian Universalists and our progressive allies worked in coalitions to resist and even block some of the worst new policies. Here's are highlights of this year's accomplishments:

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

- * Maintained an interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition that organized a conference to empower women, advocated for Planned Parenthood funding and abortion rights, held an Interfaith Reproductive Justice Prayer Breakfast at PPM's Day of Action, organized an interfaith reproductive justice workshop at the National Women's Convention in Detroit, and working to put a minimum wage increase and earned paid sick time on the 2018 ballot;
- * In coalition, helped pressure Governor Snyder to veto a bill authorizing "Choose Life" license plates that would have funded anti-abortion clinics;

RACIAL JUSTICE

- * Published an Interfaith Challenging Racism Toolkit, made it available to all UU congregations and provided training on how to use it;
- * Provided information on anti-racism training and opportunities to challenge racism;

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- * Worked with the Peoples Water Board to advocate for water as a human right legislation;
- * Started a statewide Environmental Justice Task Force;

LGBTQ & IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

- * In partnership with local, state and national groups, advocated with the Michigan legislature and the Michigan Human Rights Commission for LGBTQ rights;
- * Advocated for legislation to restore DACA protections for immigrant youth;

GUN VIOLENCE AND HEALTH REFORM

- * Worked in coalition to block state legislation that would have allowed concealed weapons to be brought into schools, places of worship and other safe zones;
- * Provided multiple alerts to help block the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.
- * Opposed Trump tax bill, including cuts to Medicare. These cuts were waived.

New Hope will be having a membership drive this month for MUUSJN

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.

1/7/2018 Corinne
1/14/2018 Deb E.
1/21/2018 Bonnie and Robyn
1/28/2018 -----

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

January 2018

Dates to remember

Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

Meditation Group 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

January 2 - Lunch Bunch, 12:30 at Brighton Bar and Grill



January 8 - Board Meeting, 7:00 at New Hope. All are welcome to attend.

January 11 - Book Club at New Hope (***Still Life with Bread Crumbs*** by Anna Quindlen.)



January 18 - Women of Hope meeting, 6:30 at New Hope. Bring a Dish to pass