

# News of Hope



## New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2019

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When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
The bring peace among brothers  
and sisters,  
To make music in the heart.

**“The Work of Christmas”**  
by Howard Thurman



I love this poem because it is about, what I think, is always the true meaning of the Winter Holidays –to care for each other, to help each other, to love each other, and to take some time to hear the music.

One of the things that I love about New Hope is that we endeavor to do the work of Christmas all year long. Each Sunday we bring in peanut butter and jelly for the Active Faith Food Pantry. Each week, **Corinne Kelleher** restocks our Blessing Box with items donated by our members, so that our neighbors have some of the things they need.

This year, New Hoppers donated dozens of socks, books, crafts items, and games to the residents of Vista Maria to help fill stockings for Santa. On Christmas Eve, our offering was donated to the Humane Society of Livingston County. In February, we will donate shoes to Soles 4 Souls so that people who need shoes all over the world can receive them. **Bonnie Campbell** led this project last year. In March we will learn about the continuing struggles for clean water in Flint and Detroit. We will collect and donate water to this vital cause.

We plan to collect tee shirts and socks for the Veterans during the month of May. Last year **Deb Edford** delivered a trunk load of items



to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. We owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans for their service to our country. New Hope is proud to contribute to them. Our social Justice Project for August will be collecting food and toys for the Humane Society. Also this month we will hold our annual “Blessing of Animals” Sunday service, for we must always remember that we humans are not alone on this earth. As the 2019 holidays approach, we will again hold a month-long drive for the Food Pantry. For Christmas next year, the plan is to adopt an Active Faith family and try to fill their wish lists.

For a small congregation, New Hope does an amazing amount of good work in our community. Thank you to each of our members and friends for their contributions to all of the above causes during the church year. We also want to extend our deep gratitude to **Deb Edford** for her efforts to direct and manage our efforts. Deb also keeps us informed about the work of the MI UU Social Justice Network. She sends us petitions to sign and ideas on how to make our voices heard in Lansing and in Washington, DC. We can't thank **Deb** enough for her leadership and skill in these matters!

In order to keep New Hope functioning, our members also work several times a year at Charity Poker Events, which earn needed income for our budget. Thank you to everyone who does this work, with special thanks to **Dennis Strasser** for making the arrangements and to **Mike Kelleher** for doing the financials.



**Everyone** at New Hope contributes to the well-being of our congregation and everyone volunteers their time, talents, treasure, and wisdom. We have a shared ministry of independent folks. We don't all think the same way or believe the same things or like the same activities, but we come together each Sunday to learn and share together. We come together to help make the world a kinder, more just place.

With the arrival of another year, I wish us all joy and peace. I wish us health and happiness. I wish us grit and determination. With all of these, we will have another wonderful year together!

May it be so!

Love, Kathy

## Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for January 2019

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

### SUNDAY, January 6, 10:30 AM – “A New Year”

What does the New Year mean to you? Is it a time for parties and fun? Or a time for resolutions and renewal? Or a time for forgiving and forgetting? Or a time for love and gratitude? On this Sunday at New Hope, we will try to put the past behind us and move forward into 2019. Join us and share your thoughts about starting another year.



### SUNDAY, January 13, 10:30 AM - “Kwanzaa”

Created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor of African studies at California State University, Kwanzaa is a celebration of African culture, which occurs from December 26 to January 1 each year. Kwanzaa is about embracing ethical principles, so the goodness of the world can be shared and enjoyed by people of all ethnicities. We will learn about each of the seven values, which define this holiday, and how they apply to everyone.

### SUNDAY, January 20, 10:30 AM – “World Religion Day”



Each year at this time, the Baha'i Faith holds a celebration to honor the teachings of unity found in all religions. Established in 1950, the holiday creates a way to encourage interfaith knowledge and understanding. We will explore what it means to be Baha'i and how it intersects with our Unitarian Universalism.

### SUNDAY, January 27, 10:30 AM – “Appreciating Nature In Winter”

Here in Michigan we have now been living in winter for almost two months. Though we all spend more time indoors during the cold weather, winter does have its moments of natural beauty and awe-inspiring experiences. We often speak of our gratitude for Mother Nature during the spring, summer and fall. Let's also be grateful for winter this year!

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.

## January dates to remember

**1/8/19** Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm at Aubrees in South Lyon

**1/10/19** Book Club meets at New Hope at 7 pm

**1/14/19** New Hope Board Meeting at 6:30 pm

**1/17/19** Women Of Hope meets at 6:30 for a potluck and a program planned by Kathy Silver



**Note: The next poker dates will be:**

Wednesday, March 13 through

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 PM until 2:00 AM

## Social Justice

Mark your calendars- February is our month to collect used or almost new shoes for Soles for Souls. More info to come. So start digging through those closets and under beds soon.

Thanks,  
Deb E.



## 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.

January 2019

- 01/06/19 Denise
- 01/13/19 Bonnie and Robyn
- 01/20/19 Corinne
- 01/27/19 -----

## 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.

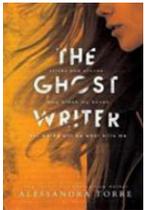
Anyone can send me an email to let me know which Sunday they'd like to be greeter: [kzaenger@comcast.net](mailto:kzaenger@comcast.net)

- 01/06/19 Denise
- 01/13/19 Bonnie and Robyn
- 01/20/19 Corinne and Mike
- 01/27/19 -----



## Book Club

Book Club meets Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7 pm at New Hope. We will be discussing, "The Ghostwriter" by Alessandra Torre. Please join us for a stimulating discussion. February's read is "Small, Great Things" by Jodi Piccoult.



## THE SOLSTICE TEACHES US

By David Breeden

The Solstices teach us that darkness comes, that darkness goes.

The Solstices teach us that light comes, that light goes.

The Solstices teach us, calmly, silently, to be calm, silent. Learning.

The Solstices teach us as we circle the sun that everything flies.

The Solstices teach us to remember the dark, to remember the light,

to remember time. The seasons. And love as we circle the sun.