

# News<sub>of</sub> *Hope*



**New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**January 2021** 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI [www.newhopeuu.org](http://www.newhopeuu.org) 248-474-9108

## A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!

Finally, we have made it to 2021! It seems like it has taken us the longest time to get here. What a year it has been.... How wonderful it will be to look back on it and be glad it is gone! How great will it feel to know the future looks safer and brighter?

During our Christmas weekend, my family has been working on Monica's new jigsaw puzzle of famous suffragettes. There are about fifty women pictured with their names and birthdays. The only man to be honored was Frederick Douglass. It is a circular puzzle, which is a different kind of challenge than we have done before.

Rev. Amanda Poppei has an article called "Putting the Pieces Together" in which she says: *Life has often felt to me like a jigsaw puzzle... or really, like the mess of pieces when you first dump out the box. When I've been faced with multiple decisions at the same time, it's felt as though I'm not sure which piece to fit in first. Little by little, I try piece after piece until one clicks. Then I can recognize the pieces that might fit around it, and eventually the pattern emerges — not just in the picture I'm creating, but in the mess of pieces I have still to pick up.*

She goes on to talk about how puzzles are for vacations and rainy, snowy days, but we have learned that puzzles are also for pandemics. How many of us have whiled away an afternoon or evening trying to start a new puzzle? We find ourselves totally frustrated and confused by what is going on in the world around us, and we find some comfort and some stability in piecing together hundreds of tiny oddly shaped cardboards.

Amanda reminds us that, unlike puzzles, our lives do not come with a picture on the box to show us how it all fits together. It is up to us to figure out the ways that all of the various people, and tasks, and emotions interact and join together to form the patterns of our whole lives. It is up to us to figure out how we can create good lives with the pieces we have on hand.



The pandemic has been a challenge for all of us. I hope it has also been a learning experience. We have learned that there are other ways of being together besides sitting in the same room. We have learned that our church life can continue even if we are not in church. Not being together does not diminish love. Sometimes it makes it feel stronger and more urgent.

Our jigsaw puzzles can teach us a lesson. When it seems that the world we wish for is totally a jumble of disparate problems, we can look at the issues one at a time and begin to find solutions, just like putting the puzzle pieces together, one at a time, until we create the whole picture.



The election work, the voting, the reading, the donating to just causes, the zoom chats, the quick texts, all are pieces of this pandemic life, which we have used to make it through 2020. Hopefully in 2021, we can add the vaccine to the list, and things will really improve. Little by little, new possibilities of healing will emerge and the path forward will become clearer. So, we all just need to keep sorting, and finding the edges, and helping the new picture to emerge.

Stay safe and be well! Love to all, Kathy

# Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for January 2021

In the age of Covid-19, New Hope meets online at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. If you wish to join the service, please contact Denise Harris at [jutta474@yahoo.com](mailto:jutta474@yahoo.com), or Kathy Silver at [ksilver192@gmail.com](mailto:ksilver192@gmail.com). You will be notified of the link before the service. Please join us!

## January 3, 10:30 AM – “Out With The Old”



Happy New Year! During this, our first Sunday together in 2021, we will take time to jettison some of our baggage from the past year. What do we want to get rid of? Not just the obvious angst. Let's think deeper and broader and more universally. Bring your thoughts and ideas!

## January 10, 10:30 AM – “In With The New”

We have had some discussions already about delving deeper into race and gender inequalities. During 2021 we want to renew our commitment to our *Welcoming Congregation* status. We will also continue our work as anti-racists by learning more about the personal stories of some of our Unitarian Universalists of color. What is it like to be a person of color in our primarily white, affluent UU congregations? Let's learn from the stories of others.



## January 17, 10:30 AM – “Countdown To Change”



Inauguration Day is almost here. We are all eager for there to be changes in our lives and in our conversations brought about by a change in our country's leadership at the top. What important roles do leaders play in the way people behave and in what they believe? Where do we go from here? How can we help us to get there?

## January 23, 10:30 AM – “A Sigh of Relief”

For months we have all been promoting, advocating and working for a change in our government. It seems that it has really happened. What do we do next? How do we help our country to move together in a good direction? What does our religion have to do with it?



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

**Pledge Drive Information** If you haven't mailed in your pledge form for the coming year, please send it to Mike Kelleher ASAP, so we can finalize the church's 2021 budget.

**If you have your current pledge for New Hope, please send it to:** Mike Kelleher, treasurer, 3796 Loon Lake Road, Wixom, MI 48393

**Mike's Group Homes** still need spray sanitizer and wipes, if you see any, please buy and leave at church.

## Calendar



**January 6,** Lunch Bunch, Zoom

**January 11,** Board Meeting, 6:30 on Zoom

**January 14,** Book Club, *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins. 3:00 on Zoom

**January 21,** Women of Hope, 6:30 on Zoom, Kathy S. is the leader



## Social Justice Projects for January

If you haven't had a chance yet, please send a donation to the Food Pantry at **Active Faith** to help them with the holidays. PO Box 188 South Lyon, MI 48178.

Please include a note that you are from New Hope.

