



The Church Has Left the Building

By [Margaret Weis](#)

The church is not a place; it is a people.

The church is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets, and cars. Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice.

The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar but rather person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities— a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.

The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning, but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment, of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome.

The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew.

The church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts; gathering, however we can, to say to the world: welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and love.

For the church is us—each and every one of us—together, a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.



If the last three months has taught us a lesson, it has made true the words of Margaret Weis in the above affirmation. New Hope is so much more than the building we used to meet in on Sunday mornings.

More than anything, New Hope is each and every one of its members and friends. Meeting and zooming for church has shown us again and again, the joy and care we share in being together. Our delight in seeing each other and hearing about our “safe at home” lives has given all of us an added boost during this pandemic time.

Remembering how much [Maizie](#) loves cheese, and how carefully [Kathy Zaenger](#) and [Corinne Kelleher](#) planned our greeters and coffee hours makes us all nostalgic for the time, when we could hug and shake hands and sit together in peace. As I plan our on-line services, I have had many ideas about activities that we would have been doing on these Sunday mornings: singing, dancing, chatting in small groups, and artwork. Rest assured that we will all be very busy when we return to our pews.



What we have learned from this experience is that we do not need to sit together to be together. When we gather in spirit and in pictures on Sundays, New Hope feels stronger than ever. The love and values that guide us are with us every day regardless of our situations. “Love is the spirit of this church and service is our law.”

[Deb Edford](#) has done a valiant job of keeping us informed about how to “Get Out The Vote”, and other social justice projects that UU’s are involved in. [Elaine Dexter](#) continues to produce a wonderful newsletter that passes out our information to all who want it. [Jim Mikola](#) keeps our web-site current and inviting. [Dennis Strasser](#) is keeping up with the constantly changing plans for our Charity Poker Fundraisers. [Casey Branch](#) has kept our Women of Hope group going and the Book Club is also regularly meeting.

Our Board members, led by [Denise Harris](#) have been meeting monthly and continuing with the business of the

church. Thanks to Denise, Jack Schneider, Sue Myers, Mike Kelleher and Bonnie Campbell for their continuing devotion.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RUN A CHURCH, VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON! THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR HELPING!

Like every year, I will be taking the month of July off. I am looking forward to some free time and getting some things done around the farm. Leading the zoom services is more stressful than meeting in church, and I am grateful for a break. However, I will stay in regular contact with you through our members and friends google group. You can call me or email me at any time, if you need assistance or support. I'm always available for you.

Denise has arranged for you all to be part of a MI wide UU church service on Sunday, July 12. On the following Sundays, the Board will provide other services for your spiritual edification! Watch for notices from them about what is going on and how to participate. There will be no service on July 5, because of the July 4 holiday.

Have a wonderful, relaxing, and enjoyable July. I'll miss you and look forward to seeing you in August, hopefully at my house for our Sunday service on 8/2/20.

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for July 2020

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

SUNDAY, July 5 – NO SERVICE. Happy Fourth of July

SUNDAY, June 12, 10:30 AM – Michigan-wide Internet of Worship Service

We will join 20+ other Michigan UU churches as we participate in the first ever Michigan-wide service. The theme will be "*What have we discovered about remaining hopeful in the midst of the unknown that we can sustain in the future*" Details on this Zoom service will be sent prior to the meeting.

SUNDAY, July 19, 10:30 AM

Patricia MacArthur will lead us in a thoughtful discussion, as she always does. Be sure to join us.

SUNDAY, July 26, 10:30 AM – "Othering and Belonging"

Kathy Zanger will share a talk by John A. Powell, HAAS Institute Director @ UC Berkeley. This topic is particularly relevant with today's racial justice movement.

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.

Michigan-Wide Sunday Service

July 12th, 2020 @10:30 AM

Join our beloved community of UU Michiganders as we share sacred space in worship.

Following the service there will be a state-wide coffee hour gathering.

Check your newsletter for details.

InterneY of Spirit

Announcements

PB and J Donations

Active Faith
Community Service
PO Box 188
South Lyon, MI 48178

If you have your pledge for New Hope, please send it to:

Mike Kelleher, treasurer
3796 Loon Lake Road
Wixom, MI 48393

July Notes



July 5

NO CHURCH – Happy Fourth of July!

July 9

Book Club at 3pm via zoom. Book is "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng. Please contact Denise to participate.

July 12

MI church service, watch for details

July 13

Board Meeting, 6:30 on Zoom

No Women of Hope in July, Picnic in August - hopefully

August 2

Church at Fox Trot Farm - hopefully

Social Justice Project-

Join the Get Out The Vote effort at the Sierra Club website sc.org/GOTV

Environmental Justice Reading Group-

continue to read chapters at your leisure.