

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 2018 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108



"In March, winter is holding back and spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside of us too."

Jean Hersey

I haven't ever thought of March in quite this way before, but winter sometimes does seem to be holding back. The temperatures are not quite so cold. The snow is melting faster than in January. The part about spring pulling forward is what I usually think. I can't wait for the sun to return.

Yet, as the weather warms and the world brightens, it beckons us to the outside, to all of the work and play that has remained undone during the past 5 months. It means we must leave the warmth of our quilts and the solace of our books and movies. We must return to the activities and chores outside our windows. I think that I may miss my quilt!

At New Hope, we are starting the new month with a new topic. "Prayer" is not something that we have discussed much at New Hope. It is timely because National Prayer Day is on the first Friday of March. It is interesting, because we will all have lots of differing ideas about prayer, and what it is, and what it means. Do you pray? I am looking forward to a wonderful learning experience on March 4. I hope that everyone is there to contribute to the conversation.

On March 11, we will try again to present our service on the "#Me Too" movement. Our first attempt was subverted by the snowy weather in February. More than half of the world's population is women. It is time for their voices to be heard regarding sexual assault and harassment. How does this topic intersect with LGBTQ rights, civil rights, and equal treatment and respect for all people?

For the third year in a row, March is WATER month at New Hope. Since the Flint Crisis, we have consistently supported the rights to water for all people. As in the past, we will have a service about water as a social justice issue. During the month, we will collect money to donate to **We the People of Detroit**, a community group which distributes water to needing households. *Deb Edford* devotes her time and energy to leading this important project and to New Hope's other social justice work.



Easter comes pretty early this year, on April 1. Our last service in March will focus on the Jewish holiday of Passover and on some of the Christian Easter traditions. As Unitarian Universalists it is important for us to understand major holy days of other religions. Our UU roots and some of our religious forebears come from Judaism and Christianity. Many of us were raised in religious homes where these holidays were widely celebrated. What values and stories do we honor from our religious pasts and what meanings do they hold for us today?

New Hope was happy to receive a letter from Active Faith in South Lyon thanking us for the 849.5 pounds of food we donated to their Food Pantry in 2017. That is almost 30 pounds of food per person from our members. Thank you to everyone for the peanut butter and jelly every week and also for contributions to two special food drives we held to meet shortages at the Pantry. Thank you to *Mike Kelleher* for delivering all that food. New Hope is happy to be of service to the greater Lyon Township community.



Corinne Kelleher, our **Blessing Box** manager, notes that items are being taken from the big blue box on a regular basis. Thanks to your generosity, we have a whole cupboard full of things ready to replenish the box when necessary. Thanks, Corinne, for the great job you are doing!

Our SOLES4SOULS shoe collection in January/February was a massive success! Under *Bonnie Campbell's* leadership, we gathered 189.5 pairs of shoes to be donated to this worthwhile organization. Thanks to *Mike Campbell* for helping with the delivery. Hurray for everyone who helped and gave!

New Hope continues to be a small, but mighty, congregation. We are thrilled to welcome newcomers to help us continue the good work of spiritual growth, social justice, fellowship and friendship. Thanks to all for your efforts to make New Hope a loving community.

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for March 2018

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

“Do UU’s Pray?”

Our National Day of Prayer was celebrated on March 2. What does prayer mean to you? Are you put-off by the word? Do you practice meditation rather than prayer? Are you ever surprised that you find yourself praying? Prayer can be personal or communal. It can be a gratitude or a petition. It can be whatever you want it to be. Come and share your thoughts with us!



SUNDAY, MARCH 11
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

“# ME TOO”

The women’s movement protesting sexual assault and harassment has been gaining in momentum and strength both in our country and around the world. Half of all people are women. It is time for their voices to be heard. What can we do to support women as they strive for equality and justice? What can we do to support all people in their quest for dignified lives? How does the #ME TOO movement make you feel?

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
10:30 AM

KATHY SILVER
DEB TYLER

“Water Is Life”

Almost 4 years after the Flint water crisis began, some people in Flint still need to use bottled water. Nearby in Detroit, there are thousands of households suffering from water shut-offs because of issues with billings and payments. Old lead pipes and antiquated plumbing also contribute to the problem. People cannot live without clean, drinkable water. How can we help to fix this? Water is our social justice project for March at New Hope. Come and learn more.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
10:30 AM

DEB TYLER
KATHY SILVER

“Palm Sunday and Passover”

As we approach the Jewish celebrations of Passover and the Christian holy days of Easter, let us take some time to understand better these religious stories from ancient times. Many of us have significant childhood memories of family seders and somber religious services. We will share bread together and ponder the sacrifices people made for the sake of their beliefs. Let’s remember together....



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.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

By Robert F Kaufmann

We wish for you a storm or two that you may enjoy the calm. We wish for you tranquility in time of trial. We wish you a cool breeze on a warm day, and pale white clouds that you may better appreciate the blueness of the sky. We wish you darkness that you may see the stars.

We wish you anticipation of high adventure, and we wish you the courage to avoid battle. We wish you a sense of wonder—and poetry—and music. We wish you companionship that you may appreciate solitude.

We wish you a friend who will understand you, and understanding so that you may have a friend. We wish you may become all that you wish to be, and more than you hope that you can be.

We wish you a flower to smell, a hand to touch, a voice to cheer, a heart to gladden. And we wish you someone to love, as we love you.

From UUA.org

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.

3/04/18 Bonnie and Robyn
3/11/18 Corinne
3/18/18 Chelsea and Jerome
3/25/18 Deb E.

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

3/04/18 Bonnie and Robyn
3/11/18 Corinne & Mike
3/18/18 Connie
3/25/18 Deb E.

March 2018

Dates to remember

Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

Meditation Group 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

March 5 - Lunch Bunch, 12:30 at Jamisons Irish Pub at Green Oak Center near Barnes and Noble



Charity Poker – March 7-10, Thanks to all our volunteer workers!

March 12 - Board Meeting, 7:00 at New Hope

March 15 - Women of Hope meeting, 6:30 at New Hope

March 22 - Book Club at New Hope (date changed to accommodate charity poker)



Remember March is **WATER** month at New Hope. During the month, we will collect money to donate to **We the People of Detroit**, a community group which distributes water to needing households.

Charity Poker Dates



Wed. March 7th - Sat. March 10th

Please contact Dennis to volunteer for a shift -we still have a couple of spots to fill. We appreciate your help with this important fundraiser.