

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 2019

57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

New Hope Prayer of Gratitude

Oh Spirit of Life, to you we offer our
prayer of gratitude.

- in remembrance for those who have gone before us and given us wisdom,
 - for the beauty of our natural world,
 - in recognition of difficult times, which have led to greater understanding,
 - for the joys of our common lives, our families, our friends, and our good times,
 - in the hope of creating a more just and loving world,
 - and for your greatest gift of all, life itself, which nourishes our bodies and sanctifies our souls.
- For all these things, and so many more, we are eternally grateful.

In September at the beginning of the new church year, we, the members of New Hope Congregation, chose GRATITUDE as our theme for this year. Each year for the past few years we have chosen an annual theme. We've talked about compassion, communication and connections. Molding the church year around an annual theme gives us a lens through which to view current events, the changing of the seasons, and holidays and holy days.

The theme of gratitude has been a good one, I think. In the fall we talked a lot about gratitude and what it means to us. In our early conversations, we wrote down some of our ideas and feelings about being thankful. The above prayer is the result of those various musings. I love that we have all created something meaningful together, something that we can say in our time alone to express our gratitude and remind us of New Hope.

Almost every Sunday, we have taken a few minutes to call out what we are grateful for, at that particular moment. Sometimes, people call out about the weather, or their families, or their creature comforts. Sunlight and warmth have been favorites during this long and dreary winter. Pets and other animals are always a mentioned. Spouses and offspring are often appreciated!



Even on the grumpiest of days, we can all think of something for which to be grateful. Feeling that sense of wonder and thanksgiving gives our lives balance, in this world of 24-hour news bombardment. So much of what we see and hear in the media is negative. Yet, if we take some time to look around and live in the actual moment, there are always people who are kind, animals who are entertaining and endearing, family members who love us and want to care for us, beautiful sunsets and amazing clouds in the sky. And there is always, always something we can do to make life better for someone else.

For a small church, life at New Hope is hopeful and productive. Each Sunday we share our thoughts, feelings, ideas and questions. We sing together about love, and joy and justice and wonder. We collect peanut butter and jelly for the local food pantry and stock our Blessing Box with items for our neighbors. We break bread together after each service and enjoy tasty treats and healthy snacks. Most of all, we support each other and enjoy each other's friendship.



Almost every month we choose a social justice project, which helps to make the world a better place. In February we collected around two hundred pairs of shoes for **Soles 4 Souls**. March is **water justice month** at New Hope. We will be gathering donations for "We The People Of Detroit", a non-profit that helps folks to pay their water bills, and prevent water shut-offs. They also educate everyone about the rights of all people to have good, clean water. Water is a necessity for everyone.

I am grateful for all of the good that our congregation does in the world. I am grateful for each person who is a member of our church community. I am grateful for YOU!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for March 2019

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

SUNDAY, March 3, 10:30 AM – “World Day Of Prayer”

On March 1, Christians all around the world will be celebrating the “World Day Of Prayer”. This seems like an appropriate time for UU’s to talk a bit about prayer. Do you pray? What does prayer mean to you? Come and learn about this interesting religious holiday and share your perspective on prayer. We hope to see you!



SUNDAY, March 10, 10:30 AM - “Stopping Gun Violence”



Gun violence is ravaging our country. How can we turn bullets into bells or put flowers into gun barrels? How do we understand this problem? How can we help to keep all people safer? Bring your ideas and your love!

SUNDAY, March 17, 10:30 AM – “Water Is Life”

March is Water Justice Month at New Hope. Please join us as we celebrate water and learn about the water problems many people experience in Southeast Michigan. Rocket(!!!)Man will be our guest musician. He’ll share a musical perspective on justice for all. Plan on attending this inspiring service.



SUNDAY, March 24, 10:30 AM – “Politics and Religion”

In our country, where the separation of church and state is a longstanding principle, there seems to be an increasing overlap between politics and religion. Member Petra Verwij will share an Old Testament story that illuminates our current news cycle. Come and learn!

SUNDAY, March 31, 10:30 AM – “Grateful For Spring” ☀️🌸

Happy Easter! Happy Spring! Today we celebrate the beginning of spring with all of the beauty and new life that it creates. What are you grateful for as spring arrives? How does the change of seasons inspire you? Celebrate life with us, on this Easter morning!

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.

March dates to remember

Lunch Bunch

March 4, 12:30 pm at Draught Horse Brewery

Book Club

3/7/19 We will be discussing "Small Great Things" by Jodi Piccoul. In April we will meet on 4/12, and will discuss "Sing Unburied Sing" by Jessmyn Ward. We meet at 7 pm at New Hope. Please join us.

Board Meeting

March 11 at 6:30 pm

Charity Poker

March 13-16, A couple more volunteers still needed. Please see Dennis.

Women of Hope

3/21/19, potluck dinner at 6:30 pm, program led by Denise Harris

Social Justice

We will be celebrating Water Justice in March with a special service on March 17th. We will be collecting funds for *We the People of Detroit* which provides clean drinking water for those who experience emergency shut-offs of their water supply or have contaminated water. You can bring your cash donations or checks made out to "We the People of Detroit" to New Hope on March 17th or anytime during the month. This is New Hope third year supporting this worthwhile project.



Thanks,
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.

One of the services in March is open and everything beyond is wide open for greeters.

Dennis and I will not be at services from the end of March through mid-April. It will be great to fill these Sundays with greeters!

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

- 3/03/2019 Jill & Dave
- 3/10/2019 Mike & Corinne
- 3/17/2019 Deb E
- 3/24/2019 Bonnie & Robyn
- 3/31/2019 _____



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.

March Hospitality

- 3/03/2019 Kathy Z and Dennis S
- 3/10/2019 Corinne
- 3/17/2019 Denise
- 3/24/2019 Bonnie and Robyn
- 3/31/2019 _____