

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 2020

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"These times are already too divisive. Even more reason that as progressive people of faith we must step up to fight for our values, counter voter suppression, expand democracy and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with the voters in our own community."

UU The Vote



It is finally Primary Season in our democratic election process, the time when candidates metaphorically take off their gloves and really go after one another. I, for one, am not looking forward to the fighting and mudslinging and bad feelings, which are bound to appear as we get closer to our actual elections.

I do find some solace, though, in the **UU The Vote** movement within Unitarian Universalism. Hopefully it will help us to find a way to discuss our differences and remind us that in the end, our goals are all the same. On March 1, we will learn more about *UU The Vote* during our Sunday service. I hope that everyone will be there.

During the middle of March, our topics will focus on justice for women and justice for LGBTQ folks. The recent conviction of Harvey Weinstein returns focus to the ME TOO Movement. In truth, though, women have been unjustly treated in so many more ways than just sexual abuse and assault. Economically, maternally, legally, and philosophically, women are constantly seeking understanding and equity from a society that has long been run by privileged white males. As we continue our Sunday Services on injustice, I look forward to many enlightening and interesting discussions with you.

One of my goals for New Hope in 2020 is to renew our "Welcoming Congregation" status with the Unitarian Universalist Association. New Hope has proudly flown our rainbow flag for more than ten years. Once again a few weeks ago, it was stolen from the front of our building. We will replace the flag and buy a more secure flag pole. GLBTQ rights have always been an important value for us, as individuals and as a congregation.

On March 22, we will celebrate World Water Day and our collection will be donated to "*We The People Of Detroit*" to enable them to supply water to Detroit households who have had their water shut off. There continue to be many people in the city who have lost water service because they cannot afford to pay their bills, or there are disputes over the amounts they owe and the water company does not rectify the problems in a timely manner. Imagine being a single mother in a house with no running water! Imagine being anyone in a house with no running water!

At the end of March, our last Sunday topic will be about the injustices in the courts and prisons systems. We recently watched a Bryan Stevenson TED Talk entitled: "Let's Talk About Injustice." On March 29, we will continue the conversation that we started on that day. I know that some of you are reading his book Just Mercy. Please share your thoughts with us.



Our February social justice project was **Soles 4 Souls**. Bonnie Campbell, with help from Corinne Kelleher, have rubber banded 192 pairs of shoes as I write this and there are more to be counted. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this project a great success!

Also a hearty thanks to our Charity Poker volunteers, and to Dennis Strasser and Mike Kelleher for making the arrangements. New Hope is grateful for all you do!

Our March Project is our collection for "*We The People Of Detroit*", a group dedicated to supplying water for families in need in the City. Please write a check out to them. Thank you for your continuing need to be involved in creating justice for all!

Spring is coming. The robins are returning. I expect to see the red wing blackbirds any day now. Stay warm and keep the faith!!

See you in church!

Love, Kathy

News of Hope

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for March 2020

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



SUNDAY, March 1, 10:30 AM – “UU The VOTE”

There is a movement happening in our faith to bring liberal people together and help to assure that lots of folks vote in the upcoming primaries and national election. Come and learn what is happening and how we at New Hope can be a part of this timely and important movement.

Learn what it means to **UU The Votel**

SUNDAY, March 8, 10:30 AM – “Justice For Women”

Today, we will explore the many injustices that are inflicted upon women around the globe. Half of the world’s people are female, yet women struggle every day for equal rights, equal pay, and a voice at the table. How are women helping each other to combat injustice and how can we help too?

SUNDAY, March 15, 10:30 AM – “Raising Our Rainbow Flag, Again”

Even though our Rainbow Flag was stolen again, New Hope remains always committed to justice for LGBTQ people everywhere. Join us as we explore some of the areas in which LGBTQ folks are still struggling for justice and the progress that has been made. What do you think?



SUNDAY, March 22, 10:30 AM – “World Water Day”



What can we learn from celebrating “World Water Day”? Once again New Hope will honor the life-giving qualities of water, which all life needs to survive. We will talk about the problems the people in Detroit have getting water to everyone who needs it. Our collection on this day goes to “We The People Of Detroit”, a group dedicated to watering households who have had their water shut off. Be a part of the solution!

SUNDAY, March 29, 10:30 AM – “Let’s Talk About Criminal Justice, or Injustice”

To quote Bryan Stevenson, the “criminal justice system works better if you are guilty and rich, than if you are innocent and poor.” How can this be? What can be done about it? I am the pen pal of an incarcerated man who feels that he has not been treated fairly by the system. I’ll share some of his thoughts and legal papers with you. See you in church!

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

March 2, Lunch Bunch, 12:30 pm at Main Street Grill (327 N. Main St.) Milford

March 9, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm at New Hope

March Book Club, date to be determined. The selection is “What the Eyes Don’t See” by Mona Hanna Attisha.

March 19, Women of Hope, 6:30 Pot Luck, led by Denise

Hospitality

Volunteering for Hospitality entails that you bring in 2 food items to share, ex: cookies and fruit, and then a little clean up at the end of coffee hour. Please consider signing up!

- 03/01/20 Kathy and Dennis
- 03/08/20 Bonnie & Robyn
- 03/15/20 Corinne
- 03/22/20 -----
- 03/29/20 -----



SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS



March 22 is World Water Day and we will have our annual collection for *We the People of Detroit*. This group provides free water to households in the Detroit area that have experienced water shut offs. Cash or checks (made out to We the People of Detroit) will be gratefully accepted.

Greeter Sign Up

To welcome everyone who comes each Sunday, we are seeking two greeters to come 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 nametag 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



March 1
March 8 Bonnie & Robyn
March 15 Corinne & Mike K
March 22 Connie & Sue M
March 29

Environmental Justice Reading Group

Environmental Justice Group will meet on March 22 following services to discuss the 3 chapters from the Justice on Earth book we have been reading. Look forward to a stimulating interchange of ideas.



Book Club

March Book Club- Our March selection is "What the Eyes Don't See" by Mona Hanna Attisha. We will meet at New Hope. Date and time to be announced. Plan on joining us. Please join us as we discuss this informative book on the Flint water crises.



LOVE IS OUR GREATEST PURPOSE

By [Jay E Abernathy, Jr](#)

We affirm that love is our greatest purpose.
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living.
The search for truth is our constant star.
We pledge our hearts, minds, and hands:
To challenge injustice with courage;
To find hope in times of fear;
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values every day as a beloved community.
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all that is sacred in life.

