

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 2022 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

A SANSKRIT SALUTATION TO THE DAWN

Listen to the salutation of the dawn,
Look to this day for it is life, the very life of life,
In its brief course lie all the verities and
realities of our existence.

The bliss of growth, the splendor of beauty,
For yesterday is but a dream
and tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well spent makes every yesterday
a dream of happiness and tomorrow
a vision of hope.

Look well therefore to this day.
Such is the salutation of the dawn.



“Today well spent makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and tomorrow a vision of hope.” I love these words because they speak such wisdom. It is so easy to forget, when we are embroiled in life, that yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow – a vision. We only have influence over this day that we are currently living. How important it is for us to be mindful of this. We are powerless to change yesterday and we cannot foresee the future. We must live this day that we have, to the best of our ability!

I hope that our Sundays in April will be very good days for all of us. On the first Sunday of the month, we will be continuing our discussion of racial justice issues that we started back in February. After a TED talk entitled “Why We Must Confront the Painful Parts of US History” we will be looking at a list of characteristics that describe aspects of **white supremacy**. The plan will be to break into small groups to discuss each item for a few minutes and to think about how it works and how it serves the interests of white people. Then each group will report back to the congregation a short synopsis of their ideas. Come and contribute your thoughts!

On April 10, we will talk about **mindfulness and compassion**. Not the empathy we feel for our friends’ difficulties, but the compassion we might develop for the people who think and behave very differently from us. According to Buddhist author and teacher, Sharon Salzberg, the first step toward feeling compassion for others is to set the intention to try it out. Using thought-power and willpower, how can we develop compassion for those with whom we have no natural affinity? We hope you’ll join us.

“**A Spark Of The Divine**” will be our topic for our **Easter** service on April 17. Does everyone have this spark regardless of their beliefs and values? What meaning does “The Divine” hold for Unitarian Universalists? What does it mean to you? Our service may also contain some spring surprises. This will be a celebration about life and growth! Don’t miss it!

Our final service of the month will be an **Earth Day service** entitled “Soil Or Dirt”. As a continuation of our Green Sanctuary 2030 learning, we watch a short video entitled “a Climate Change Solution Right Under Our Feet”. Soil has amazing properties that we should all know about and try to protect. Come and learn with us! It should be an interesting month with hopefully some new ideas and actions for old and difficult problems.



By the time April ends, we will be having warmer and sunnier days. There may be leaf buds on the trees, and bugs in the grass, and flowers in some gardens. Hopefully the war in Ukraine will be ended, and the people in our country will feel more hopeful and positive about the future.

There are so many things that I don’t understand about life lately. What I do know is that New Hope is trying to make the world around us a better place. That is what we can do. We cannot stop the war or world hunger. We can only try to do our parts to help. We cannot force people to get their news and information from reputable sources, we can only share the knowledge that we have gotten. And most of all, we can be kind to everyone we meet, even if we disagree with them. That is our Unitarian Universalist way!

*Love,
Kathy*

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for April 2022

New Hope Services begin at 10:30 am. If you have any questions about our Services or activities, please contact Kathy Silver, ksilver192@gmail.com or Denise Harris, jutta474@yahoo.com. Thank you and hope to see you soon!

SUNDAY, April 3, 10:30 AM - "White Supremacy" Hasan Kwame Jeffries

At the end of February, we celebrated Racial Justice Sunday here at New Hope, but our time ended before we could discuss the details of white supremacy. After watching a short TED Talk by historian Hasan Kwame Jeffries, we'll talk about some of its many characteristics and the ways that they affect all of us. This is an area of knowledge that keeps expanding as people think about it. What do you think? How can we combat this insidious problem?

SUNDAY, April 10, 10:30 AM - "Mindfulness and Compassion"

Buddhist author and teacher, Sharon Salzberg, tells us that the first step toward feeling compassion for others is to set the intention to try it out. This is different from empathy and sympathy, which we might feel naturally. This is an exercise of the mind and heart that we can attempt, when we are not naturally attracted to the object of compassion, meaning compassion for those whom we resent or dislike. We'll talk about it and then practice it. We hope that you come join us!



SUNDAY, April 17, 10:30 AM - "A Spark of the Divine"

What does having inherent worth and dignity mean in today's world? Is it even possible, when our every action can be caught on camera and people we don't even know damn us on Facebook for our opinions? How do we think about the Spark of the Divine of those who commit war crimes or attack transgender people on the street? These are challenging questions for challenging times.



SUNDAY, April 24, 10:30 AM "Soil Or Dirt?"

Join us for an Earth Day TED Talk called "A Climate Change Solution Right Under Our Feet". Come and learn from a soil scientist about the many important properties of soil, and how they can help us to combat the warming of our world. We'll celebrate Mother Earth and offer our gratitude for all that she gives us. What do you like about dirt?

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



If you have your pledge for New Hope, please send it to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer, 3796 Loon Lake Road, Wixom, MI 48393 or put it in the basket at church. Thanks!

REMEMBER TO HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX

Thanks to Bonnie and her shoe crew for leading our SOLES 4 SOULS event in March. Hooray for all the helpers and all the shoe donaters!

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY IS COLLECTED EVERY SUNDAY FOR ACTIVE FAITH FOOD PANTRY. MAKE A KID HAPPY!

Greeters

We need greeters for the month of April. The sign-up sheet is on the hospitality table. Thank you!

April Calendar

April 6,
Lunch Bunch,
Beckers Bar &
Grill, 30751 Milford
Road, New
Hudson, 12:30 pm

April 11,
Board meeting at
New Hope, 3 pm

April 14,
Book Club, 3 pm
at New Hope

April 21,
Women of Hope,
6:30 PM, at New
Hope. Bring a dish
to share. Candace
is the leader



Hospitality



Signing up for hospitality is easy, you really only need to bring in a couple of snacks items to share, and the clean up is quick. Thank you to those of you who help me out each month. It is greatly appreciated.

April 2022

3rd Robyn
10th Bonnie
17th Corinne
24th Denise

Blessing Box

Thank you to everyone for helping me out with the Blessing Box. I think it serves a need in the community, especially now with food prices going up. Thanks so much!

--Corinne

