

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

During the month of January at New Hope, we have been learning about the history of Unitarian Universalism. We started with the Ancient Unitarians and moved on to the Early Universalists. We finished the month talking about the Sources of Our Faith. We found examples of each source in a number of places: the Hubble Telescope photos, a story about Dr. Albert Schweitzer, stories with Buddhist and Islamic sources, Old and New Testament Stories, some Humanist writings and Native American tales of creation. I have really enjoyed putting these services together. Every time, I read the old histories, I find out new information, and sometimes, even some new people. At New Hope, I love how we all learn together about the things we care about.

Our February service calendar is packed with topics about Justice. We will start the month with a TED Talk by Statistician Nic Marks, who believes that we should measure our nation's successes not by our productivity, but by the happiness and well-being of our people, and by extension, our planet. What a novel and important idea! We should be looking at the lives of the everyday people, instead of worrying about the stock market and if the rich people are getting richer.



The following three Sunday services will be about Justice: LGBTQIA Justice, Reproductive Justice and Racial Justice. On February 13, we will celebrate "Side with Love Sunday". This is part of a month long UUA project that is a continuation of the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign. All of us need love. All of us need justice. All of us need to live in a fair and free world. What more can we do to make it so?

February 20 will be "Reproductive Justice Sunday" in commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, and in honor of those women and men who have fought for reproductive freedom and choice. No one should have the right to tell a woman that she must bear a child. When I was a young woman, I remember the frequent news stories about women who were dying at the hands of illegal abortionists, or even worse, dying because they tried to abort themselves. We cannot return to that nightmare, ever!

Our last Sunday of February will be "Understanding White Supremacy." Many people, even UU's, think that they are well versed in racism. Yet many of us are members of the dominant group in society: white, middle class, educated, secure in our place in the world. There is much that we do not know about White Supremacy. The history and legacy of it have been hidden by our laws and our attitudes. We will spend time talking about some of the characteristics of White Supremacy Culture and how we can go about supporting racial justice and equality for all people.

New Hope's services have gone back online, while the country is fighting the omicron variant of Covid. We hope that this will only be for a short time. With some luck and good, safe behavior on the part of our MI citizens, we should be able to return to in-person services soon. While we miss being together in person, the community is also missing New Hope. The peanut butter and jelly that we deliver regularly to the Active Faith food pantry is not being delivered. We are not supplying the Blessing Box in our driveway with the non-food items that our neighbors depend on. Corrine Kelleher is stocking the box, but at some point our donation cupboard will be empty. And we will not be there to replenish it.

I know that we all fervently wish for this pandemic to abate, so that our lives can get back to normal.

I know that we are all doing whatever we can to make that happen. Our lives are full of unexpected happenings. Some of them fill us with joy. Some of them cause dread. We cannot control the unexpected. We can only deal with it. How we do that often makes a huge difference. So we try to take care of ourselves, and our loved ones. And we try to react to our problems in ways that help us to deal with them, not make them worse. May it be so!



Stay safe and sane!

*Love,
Kathy*

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for February 2022

New Hope is once again on zoom for our meetings and Sunday services. Members and friends will receive a zoom link on Sunday morning about 10 am. When we return to in-person services, you will be notified. 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, February 6, 10:30 AM - "A Happy Planet"

Join us as we watch a TED Talk featuring Statistician Nic Marks asking why we measure a nation's success by its productivity, instead of by the happiness and well-being of its people. Early Universalist Hosea Ballou believed that God made people to be happy. Nic Marks has some interesting ideas about creating happiness for the people and also for our planet. Come and see!



SUNDAY, February 13, 10:30 AM – "Side With Love Sunday"



For 4 weeks in January and February, our association has been celebrating our Unitarian Universalist promise to "Stand On the Side Of Love". The work of promoting racial justice and harmony and furthering LGBTQIA rights are an important part of New Hope's work. We continually try to learn more about these important issues. On "Side With Love Sunday" we will celebrate the importance of love in all that we do, both in our church and in our regular lives.

SUNDAY, February 20, 10:30 AM – "Reproductive Justice Sunday"

In commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the ongoing fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice, we are joining other UU congregations across the country to reflect on the history of reproductive freedom and justice in our country, and to think about the path forward in this current legal-political climate. What good ideas do you have? What can New Hope do?

FRIDAY, February 27, "Understanding White Supremacy"

There are many ways to define and think about white supremacy. Let's talk about some of its many characteristics and the ways that they affect all of us, regardless of our color. This is an area of knowledge that keeps expanding as people think about it. Being color-blind is not enough. What do you think? How can we combat this insidious problem?



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.



***** WINTER SERVICE PROJECT *****

Thank you for your generosity.

We are collecting new and clean gently used winter items for Active Faith: coats and jackets, hats and scarves, blankets, etc.

Announcements

If you have your pledge for New Hope, please send it to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer, 3796 Loon Lake Road, Wixom, MI 48393. Please return your 2022 pledge form to Mike, if you still need to do that.

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February Calendar



10th
Book Club at 3 pm, The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich, at church or zoom

14th
Board meeting, 3pm on zoom

17th
Women of Hope, 6:30 pm



Charity Poker Info



Location:
Langan's All Star Lanes
257 Ladd Rd.
Walled Lake

Dates:
Wednesday, March 16
through Saturday,
March 19
3:45PM to 2:00AM
Dennis will be arranging
a sign-up soon.