

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2020

57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

“Small Kindnesses”

By Danusha Lameris

*I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle,
people pull in their legs to let you by.*

Or how strangers still say

*“bless you” when someone sneezes,
a leftover from the Bubonic plague.*

*And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag,
someone else will help you pick them up.*

*Mostly we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it.
To smile at them and for them to smile back.*

*For the waitress to call us honey,
when she sets down a bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.*

*We have so little of each other, now.
So far are we from tribe and fire.
Only these brief moments of exchange.*

*What if they are the true dwelling of the holy,
These fleeting temples we make together, when we say,
“Here, have my seat,” “Go ahead – you first,” “I like your hat.”*

If our only information about life came from newspapers and broadcasts, we might be led to believe most people were never considerate or kind or helpful any more. Yet we know from our daily interactions in our communities that this is just not so. This poem reminds me of the many ways in which friendliness and civility still are important in our world.

My hope for our new year is that we encourage and help the goodness that we see to shine, that we remind ourselves that there is more to who we are than just our political beliefs or our stances on the many issues that confront us.

As we enter this new decade, I hope that we can all remember to look for, and honor, the many ideals and beliefs that we hold in common, rather than the ones that separate us. We all want to live in a peaceful, free and safe world. We want to breathe clean air and drink clean water. We want our children to grow up to become good citizens who vote and participate.

It is up to us to remember, and to remind others of what unites us, rather than what separates us. As Randy Block of the MI UU Social Justice Network says: “Together we can do great things!”

I hope that your Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa Holidays were wonderful.

May your New Year be filled with light, and love, and music.

Love Kathy

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Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for January 2020

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

SUNDAY, January 5, 10:30 AM – “Deconstructing The Mandala, Reconstructing Our Lives”

As we undo the feather mandala we made in November, we will think about how we would like our lives to be in 2020, not only a new year, but a new decade. What do you wish for yourself? What do you wish for the world? Join us as we share our thoughts and dreams.

SUNDAY, January 12, 10:30 AM – “What Is Climate Injustice?”

As we continue our discussions about the various kinds of injustice, this month we tackle the environment. What is climate injustice? Who does it affect? Why is it important? How do we work together to create climate justice. Bring your information and ideas about this important and timely topic.

SUNDAY, January 19, 10:30 AM – “Who Will Speak For The Trees?”

Today, we will explore how the changing and warming climate is harming the trees and plants. What is happening in our fields and forests? All around us the world is full of life that is striving to sustain and propagate itself. How can we help? What should we be doing?

SUNDAY, January 26, 10:30 AM – “The Year Of The Rat”

As the Chinese celebrate the “Year of the Rat”, so should we be concerned with all the animals and how they are adapting and changing to survive in a warming and watery world. What rights do the animals have to live in a safe and appropriate environment? Who care about their needs? New Hope is a congregation of animal lovers. What to do? What to do?

A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR TO ALL!

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.

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!

01/05/2020 Bonnie & Robyn

01/12/2020 Denise

01/19/2020 Corinne

01/26/2020 Dennis & Kathy

January dates to remember

January 7: 12:30 pm
Lunch Bunch will meet at Ginopolis in Brighton (201 W. Main St.)

January 9: 3 pm
Book Club at New Hope,

January 13: 6:30 pm
Board Meeting at New Hope

January 16: 6:30pm
Women of Hope, pot luck at New Hope, Kathy Silver to lead

February 26-29
Charity Poker Fundraiser
Sign up with Dennis to help New Hope pay our bills

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT FOR JANUARY

This month New Hope's Social Justice Project will be the UU Service Committee's Program, "**Guest At Your Table**". Each week we will take a few minutes to learn about the important work of the UUSC and take contributions. At the end of the month, our donations will be sent to the UUSC to continue their work on behalf of Unitarians everywhere.

In February, our Project will be collecting shoes for **SOLES 4 SOULS**. Gather up your old and unused shoes. Don't throw them out. They are valuable!



BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet Jan. 10, 2020 at 3 pm at New Hope.

We will be discussing "Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine". Please join us.

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
Thanks, Kathy Z.

Jan. 5	Bonnie & Robyn
Jan. 12	_____
Jan. 19	Corinne & Mike
Jan. 26	_____

Environmental Justice Group

will meet Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020 following services at Ne Hope. We will discuss 2 chapters in "Justice on Earth", the UUA common book read.

ON THE BRINK OF A NEW YEAR

By [Lois Van Leer](#)

We light this chalice on the brink of a new year
Letting go of what has been
Open and hopeful for what may come
Renewed, restored, ready
To live Life fully anew
May we move forward with intention.

Please do not forget the Blessing Box.
And a huge Thank you to all of you that help me out with your generous contributions! -- Corinne