

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

June 2020

57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org 248-474-9108

We need joy as we need air.
We need love as we need water.
We need each other as
we need the earth we share.

(Words of wisdom
from Maya Angelou)

It's hard to believe, but we are almost at the end of another church year. Soon, I will be taking some time off for rest and relaxation. Sunday services, for the month of July, will be led by our New Hope members. Then in August, we will start a new church year with a discussion of what themes and topics we would like to explore during the coming months. You can start thinking now about ideas for future services. Keep notes!

Our theme for this past year was JUSTICE. During the year, we talked about racism, white privilege and the lives of Native Americans. We talked about economic justice and the gifts brought to our shores by immigrants from all over the world.

For the month of January we discussed environmental justice. How does climate change affect the lives of different peoples? What is happening in the plant world as the temperatures rise and the weather changes? The birds and the bees and the largest animals on earth have been impacted by what we people are doing. Migratory patterns are changing. Timing is off. Confusion is everywhere. What's an animal to do?



Gender justice was another topic under discussion. Why do women still make less than men? How do we work to prevent the rights of LGBTQ folks from being eroded in the current political climate? Our concern about all of these issues and our work for justice does not seem like it will ever be done. Over the coming months, all of these topics will remain on our agendas and in our hearts.

Over the course of this year, we celebrated the fall and winter holidays. During the spring, our celebrations moved to online services. We welcomed Easter, Earth Day, and Mother's Day with guests Laz Slomovits and Jennifer Burd.

During these weeks in June, we will focus on two topics that have interested me for a while. We will be discussing resiliency and how it relates to this pandemic situation we find ourselves in at the moment. How are we doing? Where are we finding the strength we need to cope? What is giving us comfort and joy in this time of social distancing and face-masks? How do we help ourselves to be resilient and strong?

Another topic that I'd like to discuss with you is prayer. We all have very different ideas about what prayer is. Some of us have bad associations because of our previous religious experiences. Maybe there is a definition of prayer that speaks to us as Unitarian Universalists. I am looking forward to hearing what you think.

Toward the end of June, I'd like to spend some time talking about the ways that politics and religion do mix. How do we express our values without sounding biased or partisan? Our UU Principles can apply to everyone, just like the Ten Commandments. They can guide us to a more equitable, safer, kinder, healthier world.

On the last Sunday of the month, we will return to the final justice topic on my list from September: right relations. What does it mean to be in right relation with someone? How do we recognize when we have a problem with our own biases? How do churches ensure their members are in right relations with each other and with the community in which they reside?

The last two months have been a challenging time for all of us personally and for our country in general. So far, I think New Hope is thriving and we are growing in our ability to continue and deepen our relationships on line. Even though we are not doing our planned social justice projects, we are still getting some good church work done.

I miss not being to look you in the eye on Sunday mornings, when I'm in the pulpit, and I miss not being able to hug you when the service is done. BUT, I know that we are working hard to keep all of us safe and healthy, and we will continue to do so, until this danger is passed and we can meet again in person.

Blessings on you all! Stay safe and be well!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for June 2020

In the age of Covid-19, New Hope meets online at 10:30 AM Sunday mornings. If you wish to join the service, please contact Denise Harris at jutta474@yahoo.com, or Kathy Silver at ksilver192@gmail.com. You will be notified of the link before the service. Please join us!

SUNDAY, June 7, 10:30 AM – “Resiliency”

How are we surviving this time of pandemic? Where are we finding the strength we need to cope? What is giving us comfort and joy in this time of social distancing and face masks? Will we be able to “bounce back” to our former ways of being? How do you think your life may change?

SUNDAY, June 14, 10:30 AM – “How Do We Pray?”

In the Oxford Languages dictionary, the first definition of prayer is talking to a god. The second definition has to do with the act of saying prayers. The third definition is “an earnest hope or wish”. As Unitarian Universalists, not all of us believe in a god. Some of us don’t like to call what we do praying. But we all have earnest hopes and wishes about many people, things, events and issues. Come and join our discussion about how we UU’s pray.

SUNDAY, June 21, 10:30 AM – “Politics and Religion Do Mix”

This morning we will discuss what it means to **UU The Vote**. What values do we Unitarian Universalists hold that are considered important in the political world? How can we be politically active without seeming biased or partisan? How well do our UU Principles hold up in the halls of government? It will soon be time to vote! Hope to see you in church and at the polls.

SUNDAY, June 28, 10:30 AM – “Living Right Relations”

In our church communities, we often hear that church staff and boards and members need to live in right relations with each other. When New Hope was formed, we created a covenant to guide our words and actions. Should our families and our neighborhoods also have agreements that govern personal behavior? What happens when someone breaks the covenant? Developing right relations is a challenge. Re-establishing trust after breaking the agreement is even more difficult. What should we do?

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.

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions,
and the roots spring up and make new trees.”

—Amelia Earhart



June Notes



New Hope Board meeting,
June 8, 6:30 pm on zoom

Book club meets on
June 11 at 3:00 pm on
Zoom. We will be
discussing “ Ordinary
Grace” by William Kent
Kruegel. Please join us.

Social Justice Project-
Get Out The Vote from home.
To participate in this event,
sponsored by the Sierra Club,
Go to sc.org/gotv and volunteer
to write letters, make phone
calls and/or send texts. All info
available on the website. Here’s
your chance to make a
difference.

Women of Hope,
June 18th, 6:30 pm on zoom

Announcements

PB and J Donations

Active Faith Community Service
PO Box 188
South Lyon, MI 48178

**If you have your pledge for New Hope,
please send it to:**

Mike Kelleher, treasurer
3796 Loon Lake Road
Wixom, MI 48393

May was Veteran’s Month at New Hope

If you are able and willing, please send a donation
to the VA Hospital:

*John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
4646 John R Street
Detroit MI 48201-1932*

in place of the donations which we would have
collected for them if we had been in church.

Thank you, everyone.