

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

June 2021 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org

248-474-9108

Behold, my brothers and sisters, spring has come;
The earth has received the embraces of the sun
And we shall soon see the results of that love!

Every seed is awakened and so has all animal life.
It is through this mysterious power that we too
have our being
And we therefore yield to our neighbors,
Even our animal neighbors,
The same right as ourselves, to inhabit this land.
(The words of Sitting Bull)

This spring feels especially cheerful and welcome to me after the long year of Covid 19. It is like we are all being reborn. Awakened from the isolation of the pandemic and newly safe in our vaccinations, we are excited to be in church again, to be in friendly places again, to be in the world again. It is a relief to know we have made it through the year OK.

Yet so many others do not feel our happiness and relief. They are dealing with the grief of a loved one dying, or the miseries of long covid, or the angst and anger of not trusting the science or the government. I wish we could all feel safe and trusting, but that is not to be. In all honesty, we never all feel the same way at the same time, so I guess it is business as usual.

At New Hope we will be attempting to get back to business as usual with some extra additions. For the first time ever, we will be trying to zoom our services as well as attend them in person. We have some members who are not in the area all the time, and we want to make sure they continue to be a part of Sunday morning worships.

As we begin to meet in church on Sunday mornings, we want to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable. Some folks may want to continue to wear masks and/or social distance. Some may be happy to partake of snacks, and others, not so much. In our meeting room, we will be able to open windows and provide cross ventilation. In the bathroom, we have placed an air purifier, since there is no window.

The most important thing we all can do is to ask people how they are feeling and if they need anything. If someone tells us that they need more space, we will assume just that, and take some steps back. We won't be insulted by someone, who refuses snacks or coffee. We won't mind that someone wants to stand or sit 6 feet away. Before we hug, we will ask if it is OK. None of us have ever been in a situation quite like this before.

It's important that we be honest with each other, so we can be in community again, in a way that everyone feels accepted and loved. As is our custom, we will continue to welcome guests into New Hope. There is no way to ask, or tell, if someone has received their vaccinations, so it is important that we remain cautious, as well as friendly.

On June sixth, we will celebrate our service on zoom. On that day we will participate in a spiritual practice called "Inklings" developed by the Rev. Cynthia Landrum, who used to be the minister of our Clark Lake Church. The exercise will require everyone to have a paper and pencil/pen. There will be no right or wrong answers, so don't worry!

June 13 will be our service at Fox Trot Farm in Dexter. The horses, cats and dogs are looking forward to seeing you! (Covid has made a long boring year for them too!) We will have a short Sunday service in the backyard and then a long and lazy potluck picnic lunch with hot dogs, hamburgers and bean burgers provided. You'll receive reminders and directions soon.

Our Father's Day service on June 20 is titled "Stories of Men We Have Known". Besides honoring our fathers on this day, everyone is invited to share a short story about a good man who nurtured and mentored them. It could be a teacher or a coach, a relative or a neighbor, or a historical figure that was a role model. Who helped you to become the person you are?

The last Sunday in June, hopefully, we will be a part of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Worship Service. This should be an inspirational event with people from all over the country, beautiful music and powerful speakers. The plan right now is to show the service on the big screen at New Hope. We may be able to sing with their choir! Awesome!

During the month of July, I will be on vacation. If you have an idea for a service topic or a TED Talk to share, please let me, or someone on the board, know about it. There will only be three Sundays to plan since July 4 is a holiday.

Our Women of Hope group met for May on Elaine's deck. It was wonderful to sit and eat together and enjoy each other's company. After the year we have had, I'm sure we will be very grateful to see each other in person again on a weekly basis.

Blessings on you all! Stay safe and be well.

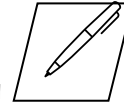
Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for June 2021

In the age of Covid-19, New Hope meets online at 10:30 AM on 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 6, 10:30 AM – “Spirit Draw Near” on zoom

On this Sunday we will learn about the spiritual practice of “Inklings”, created by the Rev. Cynthia Landrum. We will think about who and what and where we are as individuals. What do we need and what do we have to give? For this, our last Covid zoom service (we hope), everyone will need a plain sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. No talent or expertise required, just your thoughts...



SUNDAY, June 13, 11:00 AM – “Church at Fox Trot Farm”

Finally after a year of zoom and social distancing, we will meet in person at the Silver’s Fox Trot Farm in Dexter for a short worship service and a long picnic/potluck lunch. During church we will talk about what gifts we have received during the past year of pandemic. What have we learned? What are we grateful for? Bring a dish to share, a chair and your ideas. Ed Silver will grill hot dogs, hamburgers and bean burgers. Come and have fun!



SUNDAY, June 20, 10:30 AM – at New Hope, and on zoom

“Stories of Men We Have Known”



On this Father’s Day we will take some time to honor our fathers and the other important men in our lives who nurtured and mentored us. Everyone is invited to choose a special man they have known, and share him with the congregation. Was he a teacher, a coach, a neighbor, a family friend or someone that you only watched from afar? Tell us how this person influenced your life and the person you are today. This service will be at New Hope, either inside or outside, depending on weather and preferences.

SUNDAY, June 27, 10:30 AM – “General Assembly Sunday Worship” at New Hope, or stream online at noon

This year for the first time, it will be possible to show the General Assembly Sunday Worship at New Hope. In the past we have seen pieces of the service but never the whole thing. The plan is work out the technical connection so that we can join together in church and participate. This is a new experience for all of us! Please come and be part of the whole Unitarian Universalist community!

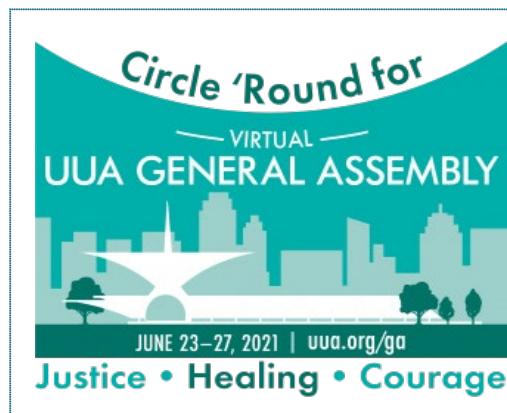
KATHY SILVER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*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 current pledge for New Hope, please send it to: Mike Kelleher, treasurer, 3796 Loon Lake Road Wixom, MI 48393

Mike’s Group Homes still need spray sanitizer and wipes, if you see any, please buy and leave at church.



Calendar



May 30, no Sunday Service, Memorial Day

June 1, Lunch Bunch, outside at church, bring your lunch

Book Club, No June meeting, July 8 meeting, Defending Jacob by William Landay

Sunday, June 13, service and picnic at Silvers

Board Meeting, June 14, 6:30 at church

Women of Hope Picnic, June 17, 6:30 at Kensington Park, Turtle Head Picnic Area.



These are the six sources our UUA congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.