

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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As I write this, Russian bombs are falling on the historic and ancient cities of Kyiv and Odessa. The people of those cities are hiding in basements and subway tunnels. The children are terrified and crying, and the adults fear for their lives and their way of life. I cannot believe that once again there is a war in the world, started by powerful people who are totally disconnected from the needs and desires of their average citizens. I hate to see the deaths of innocent people, and the senseless destruction of old beautiful buildings and the many homes where ordinary people live. It is galling and depressing - a total waste of human life and effort.

Yet here we are, safe and warm in our homes while the world powers duke it out over Ukraine. Our country is almost always so lucky. We are a continent unto ourselves bordered by two huge oceans and buffered by friendly countries we admire and enjoy. Sometimes, I feel guilty being a lucky American. Even though we have many problems and imperfections, I am grateful. In this time of trouble, I also have great appreciation for our leaders, who seem sane and rational, and are trying to do the right thing.

As Unitarian Universalists who care about all people, we need to try to help the situation, if we're able.  When this is over, there will be many things that need to be done: people who need medical care, food, clothing; mental health services; rebuilding the infrastructure; providing temporary, then permanent housing; more than we can possibly imagine.

We will light candles for all the victims and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We will send donations to relief organizations to try to provide tangible assistance. We will feel their pain, as we watch and hear the news, see the photos, and imagine how life can change in an instant and never be the same again. Mainly, we will feel frustrated and helpless, because there was nothing we could do to prevent this monstrosity, or the next one that is bound to happen. I am aware that you all know these things, but I could not let this day go by, without acknowledging them in writing.

At New Hope, life will continue as it does as we try to absorb all that is happening on the other side of the world. We will start with a **March 6 service about Lent**, since Lent will also be starting in the world's Christian churches. How has Lent changed during the last 50 years? Do you give up anything for Lent? It's something to think about.

On March 13, we'll make sure to turn our clocks back before we come to church, and then we'll discuss the rest we've missed. "**Why Rest?**" is our topic for the day. Our bodies and minds crave rest, and sometimes we have difficulty filling that need for ourselves. Why is that? What can we do about it? Let's have a restful Sunday morning together.

March 20 is the first day of Spring. Alleluia!! Finally.... As we celebrate Spring, we'll learn about the new **UUA Green Sanctuary Program**. What can we do as individuals and, also as the caretakers of New Hope? What new ideas are out there to mitigate climate change? How can we become better stewards of Mother Earth? Bring your ideas!

On **Sunday, March 27**, we'll learn about "**The International Transgender Day of Visibility**" (TDOV). Just how visible are transgender people, and how visible do they want to be? How does the world honor a day for people much of the world disdains and abuses? In our own country, transgender children are being medically neglected at the behest of lawmakers in places like Texas and Florida. It's not easy to be transgender! Please join us for this important topic.

We are pleased to be going back to **in-person church** in March. We also want to figure out a way for our MI snowbirds to still be part of New Hope. **Dennis and Denise** are going to try to figure this out. If you have any ideas and would like to help, let them know.

Also in March, the 16th – the 19th, we have a **Charity Poker Fundraiser** happening in a location near us. Sign up now with **Dennis** to get your favorite spot. We have fewer people than in the past, so getting everyone to help is a priority. If you are new at it, you can work with experienced people who know what to do. Don't be shy! This event raises a lot of money for our budget and it takes a lot of **person power!**

Our Social Justice Project for March is collecting shoes for **Soles 4 Souls**. **Bonnie** is our point person on this. Please ask your friends and neighbors for their old or unused footwear. We can take them in any condition!

We still need to stay safe and be careful!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for March 2022

New Hope is returning to in-person services on March 6. Our Services will 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, March 6, 10:30 AM - "Lent"

March 2 marked the beginning of the season of Lent in most Christian Churches around the world. What do you remember about Lent from your previous religious experiences? How has the practice and meaning of Lent changed over the years? Come and learn about this meaningful time of year. Hope you can join us and bring your memories.



SUNDAY, March 13, 10:30 AM - "Why Rest?" (Clocks get turned back on the night before this service.)

At some point, our bodies demand rest so that they can continue to function. Rest is also essential for our minds and for our spirits. Quieting our whole selves can lead us to inspiration and insights, which we cannot recognize when we are constantly busy. We'll try to have a restful Sunday morning while we ponder these ideas.

SUNDAY, March 20, 10:30 AM - "Spring is Sprung"

At 11:33 AM on this day, Spring begins, not a moment too soon for some of us! Come and celebrate the Vernal Equinox and learn about ways to help our Mother Earth. The UUA Green Sanctuary Program offers churches guidance on how to become better stewards of the planet. What can we do at New Hope to make the coming of spring more meaningful for us all? Hope you can come!



SUNDAY, March 27, 10:30 AM - "Visible Or Invisible?"

On the last day of the month, our country will celebrate "The International Transgender Day of Visibility" (TDOV). Just how visible are transgender people, and how visible do they want to be? How does the world honor a day for people that much of the world disdains and abuses? It's not easy to be transgender! Please join us for this important topic.

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.



MARCH SERVICE PROJECT

**SOLES
4
SOULS**

Tell your friends and neighbors! This month New Hope is collecting all kinds of used footwear for Soles 4 Souls. Bring your old shoes and their old unused shoes to New Hope, to be counted and bundled by Bonnie and her shoe crew! Thanks to everyone who helps with this important and intense project!



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 on the table in our meeting room. Thanks for your generosity!

Greeters

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



March Calendar

8th
12:30 Lunch Bunch,
at Jameson's Pub,
110 East Grand
River in Brighton

10th
Book Club, 3 pm,
Book is Homefront
by Kristin Hannah

14th
Board Meeting, 3 pm

16-19th
Charity Poker,
closer to New Hope!
Sign up with Dennis,
please!

17th
Women of Hope
6:30, led by Denise



Charity Poker Info



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

Wed., March 16 through
Saturday, March 19
3:45PM to 2:00AM

Sign up with Dennis, or sign
on line:

<https://signup.com/go/gtDYPBU>

Hospitality



It will be so good to see everyone when New Hope opens its doors again in March. Please consider signing up to host hospitality this Spring.~ Corinne

03/06/2022	Sue M
03/13/2022	Corinne
03/20/2022	Bonnie
03/27/2022	-----