

New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

May 2020 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

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“Choices”

by [Marcia Stanard](#)

Yesterday, there were fewer cars at the Arrivals dock at the Portland airport than there were dogs being walked on my block.

Yesterday, a friend reported a clandestine meeting—a walk with her elderly mother—careful to keep a six-foot distance as they strolled together in the sunshine.

Yesterday, schools were closed, and bars, and restaurants. We no longer gather, laughing, in bustling crowds of strangers who might become friends.

But today, people in Italy sang together out their balconies. Meals on Wheels drivers put bags of food on doorknobs, backed up six feet, and waited to see if the seniors were okay.

Today, the technology that we swore was killing our relationships—those phones our youth sink into, ignoring the world in front of them—is saving us. Letting us gather, see one another’s faces.

Tomorrow, fewer people will sicken and die if we keep our distance today. Imagine if all difficult choices had such clear and obvious results—

And then living as if they do.

It has been one complete month since New Hope stopped in-person Sunday morning services and started on-line services. It has been quite an adjustment. I’m a person who had very little experience with face to face internet contact, zoom, face-time or google meet. Now I know what each of these are and basic ideas on how to use them. What a difference a few weeks make!

Really what a difference these few weeks have made to all of us! We’ve learned how to spend “more than enough” quality time with our closest family members; how to shop once a week, or even less, wearing face masks; how to stand at least six feet away from people we don’t live with; how to ration paper products and count the squares; how to use some of the food in our pantries that has been in there for who knows how long. This list could go on and on.

The point is that we have all been learning many new things and ways of being in the world. Before January, we had never even heard of Covid-19 and now it controls our lives. I hope when all this is over, some of our lessons, as a society, will be important enough to stay with us, as we embark on opening up our communities again, and getting folks back to work and play.

I hope we will have learned some new health habits like coughing into our sleeves and not in people’s faces and washing our hands on a regular basis and not touching our faces so much. I hope we’ll think more about the purchases we make, and whether our money would be spent better elsewhere. I wonder if we will tip better because we understand

now how vulnerable some of our favorite peoples’ jobs are. Will we continue to be friendly with the neighbors we have seen walking down our streets, when we can be with our old friends again?

There are so many questions we need to find the answers to. What can we do to improve the health care of African Americans so they do not become the major victims of the next pandemic? Can we get better internet into all homes so every child can benefit from online education if that ever becomes mandatory again? Will we finally figure out a system so every American can cast their vote without having to stand in long lines or worry about having their ballot discarded because of a technicality? Is it possible to have emergency plans that take the welfare of all citizens into account, so no one will go hungry or become homeless or get sick because they do not have the basic minimum necessities?

So many questions we all want good answers to, that we all deserve the answers to. New Hope is becoming involved with a program called “UU the VOTE”. As a congregation we will work, in our little corner of the world, to encourage voting in whatever ways we can. Some of us will phone call, some will offer rides, some will work at the polls. Our board has already offered our church as a meeting space to groups that are involved in the election. Hopefully we will be able to support and participate in the GLBTQ events happening this coming summer in South Lyon and Brighton.



By UUing the VOTE, we will raise the issues that are important to us during this election season. We will try to have discussions about the truth, social justice, health care, voter suppression, gerrymandering and the meaning of a fair election that involves all our citizens. It will be an exciting and meaningful summer and fall for New Hope!

No matter what happens in the next month, New Hope members will continue to meet weekly. We will stay in daily contact with each other through our New Hope Members and Friends Google page. We will support each other and help each other when necessary. We will laugh together and cry together and complain together. We are in this together.

Blessings on us all! Stay safe and keep well!

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for May 2020

In the age of Covid-19, New Hope meets online at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings.

You will be notified of the link before the service. Please join us!

May 3, 10:30 AM – “Health Justice”

Our theme for this church year has been justice and we have explored many different topics over these past months. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic and higher death rate in our country for the elderly and for African Americans, health justice is a topic worth exploring. Please join our on-line service.

SUNDAY, May 10, 10:30 AM – “A Song For All”

Today, we will have Laz Slomovits, our musician and storyteller friend, join us as we celebrate the people in our lives who love and care for all of us. From his home, Laz will share his wonderful songs. Please join us for this musical celebration of love.



SUNDAY, May 17, 10:30 AM – “Letting Go”

This has been a time when a lot of people have been cleaning their closets and rearranging their cupboards and culling their basements of accumulated debris. When we ponder letting go of things, do we ever contemplate our mental and emotional baggage? What kinds of non-physical things do we also need to be free of?

SUNDAY, May 24, 10:30 AM – “Remembering and Honoring”

On this day before Memorial Day, we will remember those who have served in the Armed Services on our behalf and we will honor those who fought and died so that our country might be safe and strong. Most of us probably know people who are veterans and people who are serving now. “We will bless them all.”

SUNDAY, May 31, 10:30 AM – No Service

Enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday!

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.

May Notes

Book Club-

Book Club will meet via Zoom on Thursday, **May 14, at 3pm**. We will be discussing “The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet” by Jaime Ford. Please join us.

Social Justice-

in lieu of our annual collection for the VA Hospital, please send a donation to your favorite charity honoring veterans this month.

Environmental Justice

Reading Group-

when we are able to meet safely in person, we will discuss the following three chapters:

Water Unites Us p. 119,
Cherishing our World p. 47,
and Becoming Resilient p. 57.

Feel free to read any other chapters you would like.

A PRAYER FOR THESE TIMES

By Kenneth P. Langer

Let me find peace within
So that I may be calm throughout.
Let me find silence within
So that I may find compassion throughout.
Let me be reminded that some things
Are worth waiting for.
Let me be reminded that the journey
Is more important than reaching the destination.
Let me see that the non-doing
Is as much a part of life
As the doing.
Let me be reminded that
It is in these moments of holding on
That I can find quietude and renewal.
It is within these times of inaction
That I can find rest.
It is in these times of emptiness
That I can become full.