

News of *Hope*



New Hope, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
May 2021 57885 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI

www.newhopeuu.org

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In a book for children, Thich Nhat Hanh has a section entitled "Sitting Under the Rose Apple Tree". He says:

"Sitting meditation is one of the ways to return to the here and now. Meditation is a wonderful way to stop. If we know how to practice sitting meditation, we will become clear, strong, and solid. Then it will not be easy for anyone to provoke us or make us lose our composure. So sit like a mountain.... Sit for yourself. When you are sitting, you become a flower, a mountain, still water, and empty space. When you become all these wonderful things, you become truly yourself, living deeply in the here and now."

In our service for Earth Day last month, the naturalist therapist also recommended that we sit under a tree and be still and silent and commune with nature. I love that this advice to us comes from two very different disciplines. It's good advice. When life gets difficult or crazy, sit with a tree and get strong again.

At New Hope, we will begin the month of May learning about the Wiccan holiday of Beltane. Halfway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice, it is a festival that has been celebrated for thousands of years, as the point of fertility and the beauty of the flowering Earth.



On Mother's Day, we will again take some time to honor fabulous women, who have loved us, taught us, or encouraged us to discover ourselves. Of course, on this day, we all celebrate our mothers. But I would invite everyone to also think about some of the other women who have influenced our lives. Introduce all of us to a special woman in your life! Tell us what you learned from her, how she inspired you, and how she influenced your life. This idea is borrowed from our last women's group meeting hosted by Patricia MacArthur. (I thought the men might enjoy this too.)

On the third Sunday of May, we will be delving into climate change, starting with a short TED Talk by Tashka and Laura Yawanawa from the Amazon. Their plea is for us to listen and learn about how the indigenous peoples care for the Earth. The Amazon is the greatest holder of carbon dioxide in the world, yet we cut the trees down to create pastures for cattle and factory farms. What are we thinking? What do you think?

On May 23, we will revisit the topic of transgender issues. There are many different kinds of transgender people – binary, non-binary, agender, gender fluid, bi-gender. We will spend our time trying to learn about all these differences, so that we can understand better the people they represent.

In 2021, New Hope will be working to renew our Welcoming Congregation Status. There are a number of requirements we must meet in order to make this happen. During the year, we will devote two Sunday services to LGBTQ issues. There are numerous "Days of Observance" on the Welcoming Program calendar and we will use these occasions to share stories and educate ourselves. Also at least once during the year, we will watch a movie or a webinar, and then have a discussion about the LGBTQ insights found.



Right before Covid hit, our member Bonnie Campbell had made contact with the South Lyon Gay/Straight Alliance and offered New Hope's assistance. Hopefully after the pandemic is over, that group will begin to have activities again, and we can be supportive.

If all goes well, very soon, we will be back together in person, whether we are outside or inside. I know how anxious we all are about this. We are also concerned about how to include our folks, who are not able to actually attend church in person. Great minds are pondering this problem and we will find a solution. It probably won't be Hollywood quality, but we will make it happen.

It is wonderful that spring is finally here and the world is trying to right itself after a bizarre and trying 14 months.

Blessings on you all!
Stay safe and be well.

Love, Kathy

Sunday Celebration of Life Schedule for May 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, May 2, 10:30 AM – “Beltane”

This Wiccan Festival celebrates the conjoining of the infinite potential of the Goddess with the life-sparking energy of the God. This is the basis of all creation. It is a time of balancing the feminine with the masculine and bringing creativity to fruition. How do these ideas inform our world today?

SUNDAY, May 9, 10:30 AM – “Not Your Mother”

Who are our mothers? We are all born to women, who are biologically related to us, and we love and honor them. But our lives are filled with other women: strong women, smart women, famous women, unsung women, women who have helped us to discover ourselves. Let's talk about them today. Bring an important woman in your life, to church with you today!



SUNDAY, May 16, 10:30 AM – “Climate change”

Climate Change is an urgent problem that we people who live on Earth have to get very serious about solving. Again, there seems to be a growing international movement to tackle it. Where can we find the wisdom and knowledge we'll need to find solutions? Join us for an enlightening TED Talk by indigenous people in the Amazon.

SUNDAY, May 23, 10:30 AM – “The Many Ways of Transgender”

We UU's are committed to welcome and accept all people in our lives and in our congregations. However, our original ideas about transgender people are becoming outdated. We now understand that transgender is much more complicated than people feeling that they are the opposite gender of their bodies. There are many people who do not fit into any of our usual ways of thinking about gender. For those of us who have little experience with these new ways of thinking, it can all be very confusing. Let's try to figure it out together.

SUNDAY, May 30 – No Service - Holiday weekend - Be safe, Have fun!

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



Lunch Bunch May 5,

12:30 zoom
or picnic, TBD

Board Meeting May 10,

6:30 on zoom

Book Club May 13,

3 p.m. on zoom

Spring Spruce-up

at New Hope,
Saturday, May 15

Women of Hope,

May 20,
details TBD



The UUCivs group at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor is hosting a Voting Rights event

via Zoom

Tuesday, May 4th from 7-8 PM

This event will focus on 39 bills currently moving through Michigan's state legislature that could impact voting access. Kim Murphy-Kovalick, State Field Director for Voters not Politicians, will provide background information on this proposed legislation. She will also have information on a potential petition drive that would remove the governor from the process of passing new voting laws.

If you have any questions, contact them at UUCivs@uuaa.org.