

Vineyard UU Voice

We are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action, racial equity and universal justice.

Volume 8, Issue 7

July 2021

Special
points of
interest:

- Meet Suzanne!, page 3
- UUSMV to Be Included in West Chop Story Map, page 4

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UUs Fighting for Climate Justice

All Island towns are "Green Communities." Edgartown and Oak Bluffs joined the other four towns in a more energy efficient code.



Vineyard Wind I has been approved as the first commercial-scale offshore wind project in the Nation. The turbines will provide enough electricity to power 400,000

homes in Massachusetts. Vineyard Wind is well under way in developing the nation's first utility-scale offshore wind energy project over 15 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. The project will generate clean, renewable, cost-competitive energy for over 400,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth, while reducing carbon emissions by over 1.6 million tons per year. Since 2017, the Vineyard Wind I project has been through an unprecedented and exhaustive public review process that generated more than 30,000 public

comments, more than 90% of which supported the project. The Construction and Operations Plan (COP) was reviewed by more than two dozen federal, state, and local agencies over the course of more than three and a half years.

<https://www.vineyardwind.com/vineyard-wind-i>



Ministerial Search Listening Circles

The Ministerial Search Team is hosting three listening circles for members to share their thoughts about our next minister.

1. **Sunday, July 11, 9:00 am** for families, including children, on Zoom.

2. **Monday, July 12, 5:00 pm** on Zoom

3. **Tuesday, July 13, 10 am** on Zoom. We request that participants be vaccinated. Masks are optional.

We hope you will join us at one of these sessions.

—Ministerial Search Team: Ann Hollister, Linda Moffat, Mary Jane Aldrich-Moody, Rita Brown



Worship Services

All Worship Services take place on Zoom. Please see page 9 for details about how to join.

11:00 am

July 4: Reflection on the Fifth Principle - Members of the Worship Committee



In our religious lives, the democratic process

requires trust in the development of each individual conscience—a belief that such development is possible for each of us—as well as a commitment to cultivate our own conscience. We could call it a commitment to the value of each person. In the words of Theodore Parker, “Democracy means not ‘I am as good as you are,’ but ‘You are as good as I am. My connection with the sacred is only as precious as my willingness to acknowledge the same connection in others.’”

July 11: Summer Wisdom - Reverend Vicky Han-jian



Our Pastoral Care Minister will be preach-

ing, bringing her words of summer wisdom to us from the pulpit.

July 18: Dare to Love Again - Reverend Rob Hardies



Do I dare to love again? Many of us have asked that question at one time or another. I

know I have. Whether after a death, a betrayal, or the dissolution of a long-term relationship, life is always asking us to give love another chance. But how do we do it? Reverend Rob Hardies is a preacher, teacher and an experienced leader of retreats and pilgrimages. From 2001 to 2020, he was Senior Minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, a large, multiracial congregation. During his ministry at All Souls, Rob helped create organizations that advocated for marriage equality and for voting rights. He lives in Washington with his husband and son.

July 25: Stop Going to Church, Start Being Church - Ministry All Week Long - Reverend Jeremy Nickel

Reverend Jeremy D. Nickel



thrives at the intersection of spirituality and technology. A lifelong spiritual adventurer and entrepreneur, after seminary in Berkeley, CA and jobs in the tech. world, Jeremy was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Association and served seven years as the spiritual leader of Mission Peak UU Congregation in Fremont, CA. He left in 2017 to launch EvolVR. EvolVR is a secular/ spiritual community that is creating personal growth experiences in Virtual and Augmented Reality. He is now excited to spend a year back in the Congregational setting as he serves a one-year term as Consulting Minister at Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, CO. When unplugged from his Ministry, Jeremy enjoys spending time exploring the great outdoors of his newly adopted state of Colorado with his wife Nicole, a UCC minister, and daughter Eliza.

From Your President

Growing Our Congregation

When we speak of the desire to grow our congregation, what could that really mean?

The most obvious is growth in numbers. This might be growth in numbers of people visiting, new members of different ages, or number of members attending worship services.

Growth can also be in our spiritual lives and journeys. Members speak of yearning for spiritual growth. We look to ministers and others filling our pulpit to nourish us. To grow, we must seek more ways to engage meaningfully with one another. We seek growth in our ability to maintain a healthy congregation. We want to live in right relations with one another. This

means we want to earn and nurture the respect of one another, and we want to be good listeners and truly hear one another. Our first UU Principle call us to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We seek to grow in how we make real our values and then how to make them live boldly in the world around us.

We can grow in our ability to extend ourselves to welcome each person who enters our Chapel or virtual space.

Growth in hospitality is a simple, yet profound gesture of extending the hand of friendship.

We can grow in service to one another. When we say "yes" to a volunteer opportunity, we are

giving the priceless gift of sharing the best of ourselves with one another...and it is always returned.

As we come out of the year of a pandemic and pick up the pieces of our lives, we can reflect on how we will grow and change tomorrow. How will we embrace each day and breathe with no mask? How will we walk into a store, see an old friend and hug? When we are meeting person-to-person, how we will say "Hi" with our whole face and not just our eyes? Growing changes us. Let us embrace all that life puts in front of us and enjoy the growth spurt coming our way! With abiding friendship,
Rita



"We seek to grow in how we make real our values and then how to make them live boldly in the world around us."



July Caring Coordinator: Norman Stickney

PC Notes



Lucinda Sheldon, Kristy Brooks, Karen Sankey, Jan Casey, Rita Brown and Celeste Stickney
Not pictured: Glenn Palmer

Your Parish Committee met via Zoom last month on June 9th. Here are some highlights.

- The PC reviewed the proposed Covenant sent to UUSMV from our neighbors at 248 Main Street. Discussion focused specifically on changes made to the First Right of Refusal, Trees and Duration clauses. We will be following up with Kathy Ham, an attorney involved with the original Covenant, to get her input before responding. We will share with the congregation the Easement Agreement, with the 248 property owners, once we have finished consulting with our attorney.
- The Minister Search Team met and is almost ready to send our congregational profile to UUA.
 - The profile includes what the Contract Minister's focus will be. The PC agreed the congregation's top five responses from the February survey should be included: inspiring services, fostering community, encouraging universal justice, pastoral care and growth, along with certain personal and leadership characteristics.
- Housing for a contract Minister will be a HUGE challenge. The PC is encouraging all members and friends to keep your eyes and ears open for solutions.
- Our financial position remains stable, and we exceeded our B&B budgeted income in May!
- The Out Back Team has shifted its focus away from building on the back parcel, which is believed to be cost prohibitive at this time given survey results around what members want to spend. They will instead focus on backyard improvements including: marking our property boundaries, defining the driveway, fencing and creating a church yard. This will be followed by landscaping and defining the space in more detail.
- The Administrative Assistant Search Team identified and recommended Suzanne

Roberge as the new Administrative Assistant. Welcome Suzanne!!

- Kristy Brooks and Dorie Godfrey met with a representative from Power Sound of NE to discuss audio/visual technology for when we are able to be back in the Chapel. Their equipment will allow us to livestream services, meetings, concerts, performances, etc. from within the Chapel to the "outside world," as well as for us to view these same things from the "outside world" while sitting in the Chapel...and much more! We are waiting on their proposal.

- We will be reviving our quarterly Share the Plate program when we are back in the Chapel. Stay tuned for ways you can support organizations that promote universal justice!

The next PC meeting is **Wednesday, July 14, 4:00-6:00 pm**. If you plan to attend and/or have an agenda item to suggest, **please contact Rita Brown**.

—Kristy Brooks, Secretary

UUSMV to Be Included in West Chop Story Map

The Tisbury Select Board has authorized the "West Chop Story Map." Committee member Gerard Hokanson described the map as walking routes with points of interest and historical background that can

be accessed digitally. The walking route is 4.5 miles and includes Owen Park, our church, Grove Avenue Beach, West Chop Woods and West Chop Overlook. —Rita Brown





...fostering universal justice and community action...

UUSMV's commitment to sharing the Sunday offering once a quarter with a worthy charity / non-profit will resume when our services return to Stevens Chapel. The original

team that oversaw Share the Plate has moved on, so the Universal Justice teams: Allies for Racial Equity, Climate Justice, and Protecting Democ-

racy are forming a new oversight team. Watch for more information in the coming months.

—Mimi Davisson for the Universal Justice Network

Celebrating Heritage Month

Appreciation, Appropriation, Application

When the Allies for Racial Justice team decided to use the Heritage Calendar, it did so with these simple ideals. "Using the Heritage calendar to structure some of our work to dismantle racism and white supremacy helps us to acknowledge, understand, honor and respect the various groups that are oppressed and marginalized. Our work can take many paths and our actions can be varied to provide opportunities for everyone to participate, at whatever level of engagement works for them."

Appreciation: We also emphasize that all people of a group that we honor are individuals. Our appreciation attempts to strengthen that understanding and present the breadth of any heritage culture. While sharing in a common cultural identity, each person, family, and group carries their own background, traditions, foods, dialects, and history. These can vary based on country, region, and experience.

We understand that we cannot speak for another group, so we try to bring forward the works, words, and ideas of the people

of the heritage we are celebrating. We invite you to learn about the culture and visit the works, businesses, and ideas of people globally or right here on the Island.

Appropriation: Cultural appreciation is when we earnestly seek to learn about or explore a different culture. This can easily transform into appropriation the moment we try to use that culture for or by ourselves. **Appreciation** means we look to others to guide the conversation. **Appropriation** is where we take from others and then put ourselves in a position of authority. **Appreciation** understands that we do not speak for another cultural group nor do we take on the symbols or celebrations of another culture. We develop relationships with members of the celebrated culture and invite them to share their traditions, symbols, and celebrations with us.

Action: And finally, our goal was to use the increased understanding of oppressed and marginalized groups to take action!

- to recognize and understand our own privilege; check our privilege and use our privilege to dismantle systemic racism and op-

pression. During heritage months, we pay special attention to the heritage group and how we might use our privilege to dismantle oppression and injustice.

- to recognize and understand our biases. During heritage months, we pay special attention to the heritage group and learn to recognize the biases we might hold specific to the heritage group.

To use our political power! Identify and publicize proposed legislation that dismantles systemic racism and advances racial equity. During heritage month we highlight legislative issues important to the heritage group. Encourage people to take action to support the legislation, eg. Voting Rights, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Climate Justice, Women's Rights, Health Justice, Food Justice.

In celebrating the Heritage Calendar, we attempt to appreciate and take action without appropriation.

—Dorie Godfrey, Member of the Allies for Racial Equity team

Inspired by



Sacred Ground

White Privilege

What is white privilege? What is your reaction when someone uses that term? One member of our Sacred Ground (SG) group said he thought many whites would be turned off by the term because most whites don't see themselves as privileged. Would a different word, such as, unconsciousness, make a difference? Ever since taking the Sacred Ground course, we have been bothered by the term white privilege. We don't think talking about it in those terms is going to get many whites to be more conscious of systematic racism and willing to help do something about it. One problem is that the usual meaning of the word "privilege" refers to economic status or class. In a book, *Courageous Conversations About Race*, which we have been reading lately, the authors write, "For those who have not examined their lives through the lens of race, the mere suggestion that they are privileged might evoke strong emotions, particularly if they see themselves as hard-working or from challenged economic circumstances. It may be difficult to grasp the fact that White privilege has little to do with a person's economic status. It refers to the advantages that White people receive simply by virtue of their appearance."

We were helped a great deal in the SG course by our reading the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Ir-

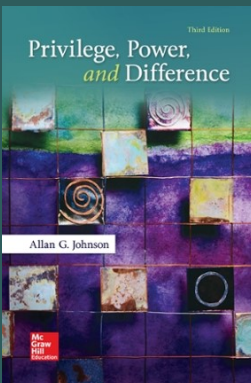
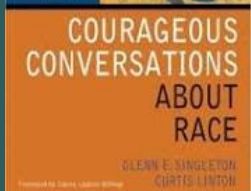
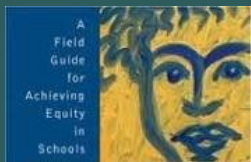
ving. She wrote about how oblivious she was of racism and that many or most whites are in the same situation today. She pointed out that white privilege and discrimination "are flip sides of the same coin." For more information about white privilege, Google "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," a paper that Peggy McIntosh wrote in 1989, in which she lists twenty-six conditions that she thought in her case "attach more to skin-color privilege than to class, religion, ethnic status, or geographical location." She went on to write, "For me white privilege has turned out to be an elusive and fugitive subject. The pressure to avoid it is great, for in facing it I must give up the myth of meritocracy. I see a pattern running through the matrix of white privilege, a pattern of assumptions which were passed on to me as a white person. In proportion as my racial group was being made confident, comfortable, and oblivious, other groups were likely being made unconfident, uncomfortable, and alienated. Whiteness protected me from many kinds of hostility, distress and violence, which I was being subtly trained to visit in turn upon people of color."

After all this, she wrote, "the word 'privilege' now seems to me misleading. I want then, to distinguish between earned strength and unearned power conferred systemically. Power

from unearned privilege can look like strength when it is in fact permission to escape or to dominate." She then went on to talk about "unearned entitlements" which, when restricted to certain groups, can become an "unearned advantage." In the book, *Privilege, Power, and Difference*, author Allan G. Johnson, writes that McIntosh also divided privilege into what she called "conferred dominance" which is cultural and gives whites the "assumption of racial dominance that can override any class advantage a person of color might have." He added that it is "about power and the unequal distribution or resources and rewards." In writing further about diversity programs, Johnson said they "usually focus on appreciating or at least tolerating differences – in other words, extending unearned entitlements to everyone instead of the dominant group alone." He also said, "It's much harder, however, to do something about" conferred dominance. "This is why issues of conferred dominance and the stronger forms of unearned advantage get much less attention, and why, when they are raised, they often provoke hostile defensiveness, especially from those who struggle with a lack of class privilege."

After all this talk about white privilege, we are left thinking that we are going to get more traction for

continued on next page



Continued from "White Privilege" on the previous page

Whites to become less oblivious to racism by looking at some of the examples that Allen Johnson gives in his book.

- "Whites are less likely than blacks to be arrested; once arrested, they are less likely to be convicted and, once convicted, less likely to go to prison, regardless of the crime or circumstances."
- "Whites are more likely than comparable blacks to have

loan applications approved, and less likely to be given poor information or the runaround during the application process."

- "Whites are charged lower prices for new or used cars than people of color are, and because of residential segregation whites have access to higher-quality goods of all kinds at cheaper prices."

Note: There are 16 more examples of this systematic racism

in Johnson's book.

We think it is fine to bring up the topic of white privilege, but we think it is much more effective to list examples of how we are unconscious of our unearned advantage and then appeal to people on the morality of the problem. It affects us all because, until we deal with it, it gets in the way of our tackling other problems.

—Peter Meleney and Char Owens

In Our CommUUnity

Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers:

Herb and Carol Golub, Mike Shepard, Sunny and Alan Wilson, Steve Myrick, John Sundman

Best Wishes to **Sunny and Alan Wilson** as they move to

assisted living. Their new address is in the contacts section of this newsletter on page 8 and in our on-line directory.

Happy 25th anniversary **Kristy and Eric Brooks**

Congratulations to UUSMV: there were no broken bones this month!

—Celeste Stickney



Wishing you the best birthday and may your next trip around the sun bring all that you need!

Suzanne Roberge will celebrate on July 1

Alan Wilson will celebrate on July 13

Jan Casey who will be 71 on July 8

Kristy Brooks who celebrates on July 9

Jeff Fisher who turns 72 on July 10

Betty Burton who also turns 72 on July 12

Jack and Pamela Street have July birthdays,

Jack on the 16th and Pamela on the 20th

Tripp Hopkins who celebrates on July 19

Celeste Stickney will be blowing out the

candles of her cake on July 23

Steve Engh and Herb Golub will celebrate on

July 26!

July UU Meetings



The UUSMV **Women's Group** will be meeting on **Thursday, July 8, 2:00 pm** outdoors

on the south side of the UUSMV Chapel. Please bring a lawn chair, a hat, and your own drink. All are welcome. In the event of rain we will meet on Zoom.

The Women's Group will meet again on **Thursday, July 22, 2:00 pm** at the home of Celeste Stickney. Please bring a

lawn chair. In the event of rain, we will head inside the house. (See page 8 for address)

—Celeste Stickney



The UUSMV **Men's Group** will be meeting in the back yard of Tad Crawford's home on **Saturday, July 10, 9:30 am**. —Peter Meleney



The UUSMV **Book Club** is reading *Prey: Immigration, Islam, and the Erosion of Women's Rights* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali for July. The book discussion will be via the UUSMV Zoom link on **Tuesday, July 27, 2:00 pm**.

—Peter Meleney

Contacts

1

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

For Pastoral Care please call Reverend Vicky Hanjian at 508-696-8225.

Worship services and meetings listed are by Zoom. The UUSMV Zoom ID# is 940 766 8736, password is 735531

You can join using this url: <https://zoom.us/j/9407668736?pwd=STN5bVZXd2lneEpmaUxTYW5ib0pWdz09>

Or call: 1-646-558-8656, and when prompted give this ID# including the pound sign at the end: 9407668736#, password 735531

Please contact Ed Merck for the Zoom information for Tuesday morning meditation and Island Insight Meditation for the Saturday morning meditation.

July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 11:00 am: <i>Reflection on the Fifth Principle</i> - Worship Committee Members	5	6 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 12:30 pm: Worship Committee Meeting	7 5:00 pm: Knotty Conversations Meeting	8 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting at the Chapel	9	10 9:30 am: Men's Group Meeting at Tad's
11 9:00 am: Ministerial Search Listening Circle 11:00 am: <i>Summer Wisdom</i> - Reverend Vicky Hanjian 12:00: Member Meeting Worship Coordinator: Sue Streeter	12 5:00 pm: Ministerial Search Listening Circle	13 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 10:00 am: Ministerial Search Listening Circle at the Chapel	14 4:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	15	16	17
18 11:00 am: <i>Dare to Love Again</i> - Reverend Rob Hardies	19	20 9:30 am: Meditation Circle	21	22 2:00 pm: Women's Group Meeting at Celeste's	23	24
25 11:00 am: <i>Stop Going to Church - Start Being Church - Ministry All Week Long</i> - Reverend Jeremy Nickel	26	27 9:30 am: Meditation Circle 2:00 pm: Book Club Meeting	28	29	30	31

Rest in Peace

The recent *UUWorld* contained obituaries of two UU ministers who had connections with UUSMV.

The first, Reverend Eugene Pickett, had retired to Cape Cod following his presidency of the UUA from 1979 to 1985. He occasionally was our guest minister for a few of the following years. Reverend Bruce Kennedy served us as part of the Extension Ministry Program for five years beginning in 1995. He was very supportive of the beginning chapter of the Vineyard's Habitat for Humanity organization and will be remembered by many.

—Sarah Shepard

Unitarian Universalist Society

of Martha's Vineyard

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