

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

July 27, 2025

"Something More Than Happiness"

with

Rev. Rob Hardies

"Joy is the happiness that doesn't depend on what happens."

- Brother David Steindl-Rast

Ring the Bell

Welcome and Community Connection

Bill Bridwell

Prelude

Andy Herr

Chalice Lighting and Call to Worship

Rev. Rob Hardies

You who are broken-hearted, who woke today with the winds of despair
whistling through your mind, come in.

**You who are brave but wounded, limping through life and hurting with
every step, come in.**

You who are filled with joy, whose abundance overflows, come in.

**You who walk through the world with lightness and grace, who woke this
morning with strength and hope, come in.**

Here we receive with gratitude the sweet waters of life.

Here we answer with love the call of the world's need.

Come, let us worship together!

Adapted from Rev. Kathleen McTigue

Hymn #4 *I Brought My Spirit to the Sea*

Candles of Joy and Concern

Bill Bridwell

Prayer

Rev. Rob Hardies

Hymn#123 *Spirit of Life*

Reading *Monet Refuses the Operation*, by Lisel Mueller

Offering

Bill Bridwell

Offertory Music

Andy Herr

Homily *Something More Than Happiness*

Rev. Rob Hardies

Hymn #100 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

Benediction

Rev. Rob Hardies

Postlude

Andy Herr

Thank you to Bill Bridwell, Jan Pogue and Karen Sankey for service support, Mimi Davisson for providing refreshments and Genevieve Abbot for providing flowers for today's service.

Rev. Rob Hardies served as minister at UUSMV from 2021-2022, and has preached here often before and since then. Rob is an experienced preacher, teacher, counselor and activist who currently serves as Lead Minister of The First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts. From 2001 to 2020, he was Senior Minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC, a large, dynamic multiracial congregation. During his ministry at All Souls, Rob helped found and lead two award-winning justice organizations that advocated for marriage equality and for voting rights. Before entering the ministry Rob worked for Habitat for Humanity, and served as a human rights worker with indigenous communities in Guatemala. In addition to his ministry at First Parish, Rob serves as The Unitarian Universalist Chaplain at Harvard University, where he also teaches at the Divinity School. Rob divides his time between Cambridge, MA and Washington, DC, where he lives with his husband, Chris, and 13-year-old son, Nico.

Pastoral Coverage and Care

Rev. Vicki Hanjian will provide pastoral care. She can be reached at 508-696-8225 or av.hanjian@verizon.net

Need Someone to Listen?

In addition to pastoral care being available from Rev. Vicky, your Lay Ministers are available to lend support to anyone in our USMV community in their time of need by being available to listen and offer comfort. You can reach them individually by calling: Jan Casey (508-942-3643), Bill Bridwell (774-563-8542), Kevin Longval (781-249-4712) or reach out to uu.society.mv@gmail.com

Our UUSMV CommUUnity

We will be donating our plate offering to the **Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country**, a 501(c)(3) public charity based in Kerrville, TX on July 27th. Their **Kerr County Flood Relief Fund** is providing direct support to local organizations offering rescue, relief, recovery services, and flood assistance in severely affected communities including Boerne, Hunt, Ingram, Kerrville, Center Point, and Comfort. Your contributions will help meet both urgent needs and support long-term rebuilding efforts for those whose homes, livelihoods, and communities have been upended by this disaster. If you donate by check, please make it out to **UUSMV** and write "**Texas Flood Relief**" in the memo line. Please be as generous as you can and thank you!

Share the Plate

