

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

August 24, 2025

"How to Have an Enemy"

Award winning Social Justice Sermon

by Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon

Who are your enemies—or do you have any? Perhaps you have deep disagreements, but prefer to keep the language civil. Or maybe you've been told that as a faithful, ethical, or moral person, you must love your enemies—that this means we should all just 'get along' and accept things as they are. Perhaps you were taught that having enemies inevitably means harboring hatred or violence, a path to destruction. If so, then it may be startling—or empowering, or even disturbing—for me to tell you this: I have enemies.

Welcoming and Community Connections

Liz Loucks

Prelude

Jeremy Berlin

Chalice Lighting

Liz Loucks and Sheila Hanley

Opening Words

Sheila Hanley

Hymn #18 *What Wondrous Love*

Candles of Joy and Concern

Liz Loucks

Reading

Sheila Hanley

Offering

Music

Jeremy Berlin

Abridged UUA Social Justice Award Sermon *"How to Have an Enemy"*

by Dr. Molly Housh Gordon

Read by Sheila Hanley

Hymn #131 *Life Will Guide Us*

Benediction and Closing Words by Theodore Parker

Postlude

Jeremy Berlin

Thank you to Jack Street, Jan Pogue, Karen Sankey for service support and Sue Streeter for refreshments. Our flowers today are from Jan Pogue in honor of her friend, Cathy Gillies, who died in 2025. The flowers were grown by my daughter on her farm on Chappy. She knew Cathy as my amazing friend from Mexico.

Service Description

An Award-Winning Social Justice Sermon by Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon Originally delivered at the UU Church of Columbia, MO - October 20, 2024

More information about Rev Molly -Housh -Gordon

<https://www.uua.org/people/molly-housh-gordon>

Entire sermon can be found at <https://www.uua.org/>

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

Scan this code to make a secure donation to UUSMV. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Coming Events

Sunday, August 24, 7:30: Ballroom Dancing, all are welcome!

Wednesday, August 26, 5:30 pm: Spirituals Choir Rehearsal at Stevens Chapel

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 pm: Beach Plum Zen at Stevens Chapel - All are Welcome!

Monday, September 1, 11 am - 12 pm: Martha's Vineyard #WorkersOverBillionaires Labor Day Rally

Friday, September 5, 2 pm: Sewcial Action Knitwork (at the home of Laura Beebe)

Sunday, September 7, 11:30 a.m. (after the service): Membership Meeting, Stevens Chapel

Monday, September 8, 3 pm: Parish Committee, meet in Stevens Chapel

Tuesday, September 9, 4:45 pm: Worship Committee, meet on Zoom

Monday, September 15 at 4:00 pm: Membership and Hospitality Committee at the Chapel

