

# Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

December 21, 2025

*"Living Hope in the Darkness"*

*with*

*Reverend Vicky Hanjian*

*We can know the dark, and dream it into a new image. Starhawk*

## **Ring the Bell**

**Welcome and Community Connection**

Sheila Hanley

**Prelude**

Silas Berlin

**Opening Words** "We Have Come Into This Room Of Hope" by Rev. Michelle Collins

## **Chalice Lighting**

"The Chalice Lit Among Us Is a Beacon" by Debra Faulk

Jenifer Parkinson

**Hymn #335** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

## **Candles of Joy and Concern**

**Hymn #123** "Spirit of Life" (remain seated)

**Responsive Reading** By Leslie Takahashi

Sheila Hanley

This is the season of anticipation,  
Of expecting, of hoping, of wanting.  
This is the time of expecting the arrival of something—or someone.  
**We are waiting.**

This is the time of living in darkness, in the hues of unknowing.  
Of being quiet, of reflecting on a year almost past.  
Waiting for a new beginning, for a closing or an end.  
This is the time for digesting the lessons of days gone past, anticipating the  
future for Which

**We are waiting.**  
Waiting for a world which can know justice  
Waiting for a lasting peace.  
Waiting for the bridge to span the divides which separate us.  
Waiting for a promise or a hope.  
For all of this  
**We are waiting.**

**Offering**

Sheila Hanley

**Offertory**

Silas Berlin

**Reading** "To be hopeful in bad times..." Howard Zinn

**Centering Message** "Living Hope in the Darkness"

**Closing Hymn #226** "People Look East"

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Silas Berlin

Thank you to Bill Bridwell and Mimi Davisson for service support, Joni Merry for refreshments and Liz Loucks for flowers for today's service.

**Pastoral Coverage and Care**

Rev. Vicki Hanjian will provide pastoral care. She can be reached at 508-696-8225 or [av.hanjian@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:uu.society.mv@gmail.com)

**Project Connect Winter Session**

This winter we will be offering another fun session Project Connect. This 6 week program is run by our own Emily Solarazza. Emily is a trained facilitator, who will lead sessions of the group. Sessions are 1.5 hours, once a week for 6 consecutive weeks. It is important to commit to all 6. Partners are recommended to be in separate groups.

We'd love to know if you'd like to join us! Email Ann Cilfone (Church Administrator) at [uu.society.mv@gmail.com](mailto:uu.society.mv@gmail.com) if you would like to join. Let us know if you would prefer an in person or Zoom session and include your name, email and phone number. We'll send more information once we know how many people are interested.

**Coming Events**

Sunday, January 4, after service: Mug Exchange , details below

Tuesday, January 6, 4:30 p.m.: Worship Committee on Zoom

Saturday, January 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Create Your Own Vision Board, Stevens Chapel

Monday, January 12, 11:30-1:00 p.m.: Lunch Bunch at the Black Dog Cafe across from SBS.

Wednesday, January 14, 3 p.m.: Hardy Perennials, meet at Katharine Colon's

Wednesday, January 14, 5 - 6 p.m.: UUniversal Justice Meeting, Zoom

Thursday, January 22, 5 - 6:30 p.m.: Soup and Something, Stevens Chapel

Saturday, January 24, 3:30 - 5 p.m.: Spiritual Book Club, Zoom

