

# Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

December 28, 2025

*"Choosing Hope: Why Sunflowers Turn Towards the Sun"*

*with*

*Dr. Ursula Goodenough*



**Ring the Bell**

**Welcome**

Bill Bridwell

**Prelude**

Peter Halperin

**Chalice Lighting**

Marjorie Montgomery

**Reflection**

Ursula Goodenough

**Hymn #175 "We Celebrate the Web of Life"**

**Candles of Joy and Concern**

Bill Bridwell

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

**Responsive Reading #532 "The Music of The Spheres"**

by Ernesto Cardenal

Bill Bridwell

**Offering**

**Offertory**

Peter Halperin

**Reading "The Turtle" by Mary Oliver**

Bill Bridwell

**Homily** “Choosing Hope: Why Sunflowers Turn Towards the Sun” Ursula Goodenough

**Hymn #21** “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**Benediction**

Ursula Goodenough

**Postlude**

Peter Halerpin

Thank you to the volunteers who supported today’s service. Our speaker/host will recognize those who served during the announcements.

Ursula Goodenough is Professor of Biology Emerita at Washington University who now lives on Martha’s Vineyard, MA and is a member of the UU Society of Martha’s Vineyard. She holds a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She has five children and ten grandchildren.

She taught cell biology and molecular evolution and engaged in research that focused on the sexual cycle of a green soil alga, on ciliary motility, and on algal biofuel precursors. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Microbiology Society, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a past president of the American Society for Cell Biology.

She and others are developing what is called a religious naturalist orientation and she co-founded the Religious Naturalist Association. A new edition of her book, *The Sacred Depths of Nature: How Life Emerged and Evolved*, describes her understandings of this orientation.

#### **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)

**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.

**Monday, January 12, 3 p.m.:** Membership and Hospitality Meeting Zoom

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

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

**Saturday, January 17, 10 a.m.:** Island Insight Meditation, all are welcome!

**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

