

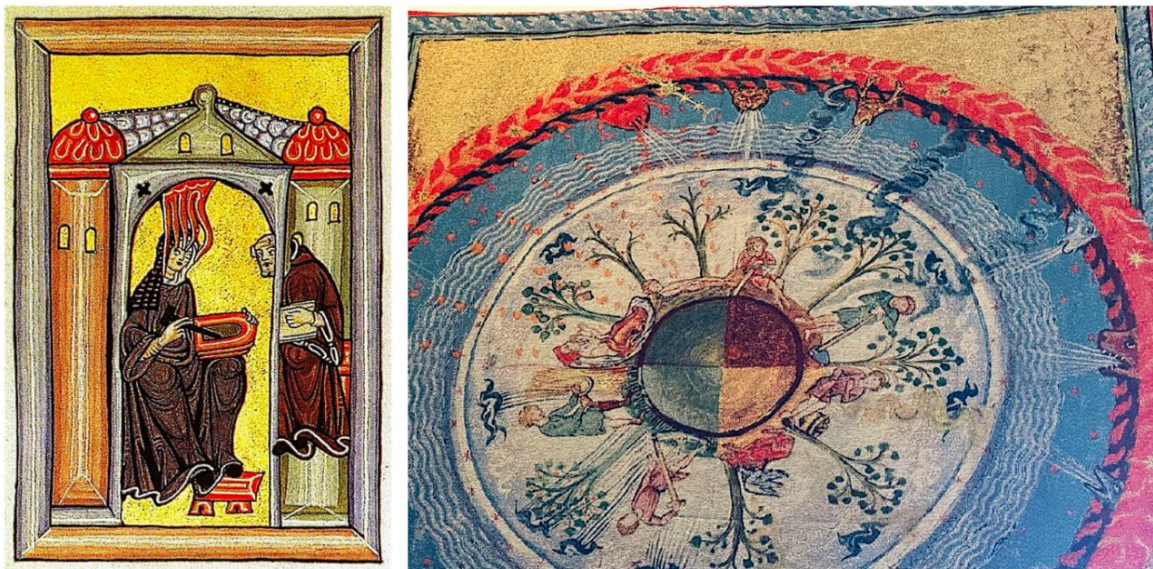
Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

May 3, 2026

"Pathways to Transcendence"

with

Dr. Ursula Goodenough



No barefooted, tree climbing, frog holding, mud pie baking, cloud spotting, puddle stomping, bird calling, wild foraging, moon gazing, firefly chasing, fort building, creek following, rock hunting moment with Mother nature is ever wasted.

-- Nicolette Sowder

Welcome

Linda Moffat

Prelude

Andy Herr

Chalice Lighting

Linda Moffat

Hymn #175 "We Celebrate the Web of Life"

Reading

Linda Moffat

Have you ever communed in the first person with this total wealth of living life about you? Have you ever stood with awe and wonder before the unbounded totality of all reality – this ongoing process we call the universe, feeling your own intimacy with all its life, thrilling with the realization of the magnitude of that relationship, relating you to all the world's life, past, present and future?

If you have, you have experienced first-hand religion.

-Bernard Meland, theologian, U. Chicago Divinity School, 1931

Joys and Concerns

Linda Moffat

Moment of Silence

Hymn #123 "Spirit of Life"

Offering

Offertory Music "O Euchari" Hildegard of Bingen,

Jessica Goodenough
Sanseverino soprano

(text at end of Order of Service)

Homily "Pathways to Transcendence"

Dr. Ursula Goodenough

Prayer (unison)

The Mother Nature's Prayer

Our Mother, who art within us,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy ways evolve,

Thy will calls forth

This earth that is now our heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And fill us with tenderness

As we repair our trespasses.

And lead us forth into communion,

And deliver us from dominion,

For thine is our wellspring

And our grounding and our glory

Forever and ever, amen.

-- Ursula Goodenough, www.sacreddepthsofnature.com

Hymn #203 "All Creatures of the Earth and Sky" verses 1-3

Benediction: "Aer Enim Volat" Hildegard of Bingen (text at end of Order of Service)

Postlude

Andy Herr

O Euchari in leta via Sequence for Saint Eucharius by Hildegard of Bingen

1a. O Euchari,

in leta via ambulasti

ubi cum Filio Dei mansisti,

illum tangendo

et miracula eius que fecit

videndo.

1a. O St. Eucharius,

you walked upon the blessed way

when with the Son of God you stayed—

you touched the man

and saw with your own eyes

his miracles.

1b. Tu eum perfecte amasti

cum sodales tui exterriti erant,

pro eo quod homines erant,

nec possibilitatem habebant

bona perfecte intueri.

1b. You loved him perfectly

while your companions trembled,

frightened by their mere humanity,

unable as they were to gaze

entirely upon the good.

2a. Tu autem in ardenti amore plene
Caritatis
illum amplexus es,
cum manipulos preceptorum eius
ad te collegisti.

2b. O Euchari,
valde beatus fuisti
cum Verbum Dei te in igne columbe
imbuit,
ubi tu quasi aurora illuminatus es,
et sic fundamentum ecclesie edificasti.

2a. But you embraced him in the ardent love
of fullest charity—
you gathered to yourself the bundles of
his sweet commands.

2b. O St. Eucharius,
so deeply blessed you were
when God's Word drenched you in the fire
of
the dove—
illuminated like the dawn
you laid and built upon the Church's one
foundation.

Aer Enim Volat by Hildegard of Bingen

Aer enim volat
et cum omnibus creaturis officia sua
exercet,
et firmamentum eum sustinet ac
aer in viribus istius pascitur.

The air moves swiftly,
cultivating all creatures,
while the firmament sustains
it,
feeding the air with its energy

Ursula Goodenough is Professor of Biology Emerita at Washington University who lives in Chilmark and is a member of the UUSMV. She taught cell biology and molecular evolution and engaged in research that focused on Chlamydomonas, a green soil alga. Her honors include election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences. She and others are developing what we call a religious naturalist orientation, and she co-founded the Religious Naturalist Association (www.religious-naturalist-association.org) A new edition of her book (www.sacreddepthsofnature.com), The Sacred Depths of Nature, describes her understandings of this orientation. She has five children (including Jessica) and ten grandchildren (including Luca and Leo).

Jessica Goodenough Sanseverino holds a B.A. in Music from Washington University in St. Louis, pursued advanced studies in Baroque performance at Early Music Vancouver, Longy School of Music, and the University of North Texas and has performed solo soprano works at numerous churches and concert venues. She currently teaches Vocal Music to K-8 students at the Tisbury School and is director of both the All-Island Youth Chorus and the Martha's Vineyard Stars. She is a passionate educator dedicated to nurturing young voices and enriching communities through music. She lives in Chilmark with her two sons, Luciano (12) and Leonardo (9).

Thank you to Bill Bridwell and Sue Streeter for service support, Kristy and Eric Brooks for refreshments and Jenifer Parkinson 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

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

Save the Date

Sunday, May 3, after the service: congregation special meeting to authorize Stevens Chapel maintenance projects

Sunday, May 3, after the special meeting: Vision 2030 discussion

Tuesday, May 5, 4:30 p.m.: Worship Committee

Monday, May 11, 3 p.m.: Parish Committee, Stevens Chapel, Zoom option available

Thursday, May 14th at 11:30 a.m.: Lunch Bunch at Mo's at the PA Club in Oak Bluffs

Thursday, May 14, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.: Post carding for Midterm Elections (weekly until the end of September)

Monday, May 18, 3 p.m.: Membership & Hospitality Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, June 28, after the service: congregation special meeting to adopt Vision 2030

Sunday, September 13, after the service: Membership Meeting