

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

June 7, 2026



*"Honoring and Celebrating Our Magical and
Bright Souls with PRIDE"*

with

Rita Brown

Ring the Bell	Graham Gitlin
Welcome and Community Connections	Jan Pogue
Prelude	Jeremy Berlin
Hymn #361 "Enter, Rejoice and Come In"	
Indigenous Land Acknowledgement	Dorie Godfrey
Opening Words	Rita Brown
Chalice Lighting	Joni Merry
Hymn #121 "We'll Build a Land"	
Candles of Joys and Concern	Mimi Davisson
Prayer "The Courage to Continue on the Journey"	Karen Sankey
Offertory	Rita Brown
Offertory #1053 "How Could Anyone" (hum/sing along)	
Message	Rita Brown
Hymn #170 "We are a Gentle, Angry People"	
Closing Words UUSMV Welcoming Congregation Affirmation (read together)	

We, as a Welcoming Congregation, have chosen, through our words, our actions and the ways we engage our spirit, to fully open our doors and our hearts to the extraordinary richness and diversity of human life.

We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

(Continued on back)

We honor the differences among us, whether due to race, color, gender identification, sexual orientation, family status, age, mental or physical ability, class, national origin, or other bases for discrimination, without requiring adherence to any given interpretation of religion or to any specific religious belief or creed. We celebrate our sense of community and the values that we share together, having affirmed this commitment

June has long been recognized as LGBTQ Pride Month, in honor of the Stonewall riots, which took place in New York City in June 1969. During Pride Month, it is not uncommon to see the rainbow flag being proudly displayed as a symbol for the LGBTQ rights movement. But how did that flag become a symbol of LGBTQ pride? It goes back to 1978, when the artist Gilbert Baker, an openly gay man and a drag queen, designed the first rainbow flag. Baker later revealed that he was urged by Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S., to create a symbol of pride for the gay community. Baker decided to make that symbol a flag because he saw flags as the 2 most powerful symbol of pride. As he later said in an interview, "Our job as gay people was to come out, to be visible, to live in the truth, as I say, to get out of the lie. A flag really fit that mission, because that's a way of proclaiming your visibility or saying, 'This is who I am!'" Baker saw the rainbow as a natural flag from the sky, so he adopted eight colors for the stripes, each color with its own meaning (hot pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit).

The Progress Pride flag was developed in 2018 to be inclusive of light blue, pink, and white stripes that represent trans and non-binary individuals and the black and brown stripes represent marginalized People of Color (POC) communities. These stripes are in a triangle shape arrow design is meant to highlight that progress is still needed. In the latest change, intersex-inclusive has been added using yellow and purple. The circle is an unbroken circle that represents being whole. The various colors came to reflect both the immense diversity and the unity of the LGBTQ community .

Thank you to Peter Meleney, Dick Johnson, Karen Sankey and Jack Street for service support. Sue Streeter for Refreshments. Our bell ringer today is Graham Gitlin.

Pastoral Coverage and Care

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

Join the Parade!

UUSMV is once again proudly marching in the Oak Bluffs Pride Parade on Saturday June 13th. All our members & friends are welcome to join the parade. Please gather at the Island Queen parking lot on Saturday 6/13 by 2:30pm to participate. Parade route is about 1 mile on paved streets with a slight uphill grade.

