

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

September 6, 2026

"What is Unitarian Universalism?"

with

Reverend David Schwartz

"We Are an Agnostic, Pragmatic, Transcendent, Hopeful Community"

Ring the bell

Welcome and Community Connections

Sheila Hanley

Opening Words "Entranced with Possibility" by Rev. Tess Baumberger

Bill Bridwell

Prelude

Jeremy Berlin

Chalice Lighting "The End is the Beginning"

Sheila Hanley

by Katie Sivani Gelfand

We call forth the life of our faith by igniting our chalice.
This spark of new beginnings invites us into a sacred space
to reflect where we have been and where we are going.
Even knowing that this particular flame will intentionally end
with our ritual extinguishing, we fear not its end...
For we know, with brave hearts,
that from every ending of our lives,
We are sent forth to make a new beginning.

Hymn #1017 "We Are Building a New Way"

Joys and Concerns

Bill Bridwell

Hymn #123

Offering

Bill Bridwell

Reflections

Sheila Hanley

Sermon "What is Unitarian Universalism?"

Video Recording by Rev David Schwartz

Hymn #1064 "Blue Boat Home"

Benediction #683

Sheila Hanley

Postlude

Jeremy Berlin

Thank you to Mary Carmel, Jan Pogue and Mary Jane Aldrich -Moodie for service support, Bill Bridwell for refreshments and Mary Jane Aldrich-Moodie 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

As the plate comes around, if you're new with us today, please feel free to let it pass. Your being here — showing up, joining us — is gift enough.

If you would like to donate securely online, please scan this QR code.



September 13 Special Member Meeting

Join us for a special member meeting on Sunday, September 13, right after the service. We'll discuss:

1. Shall we continue to be lay led for another year?
2. Should we launch a task force to explore the implications of engaging a minister?
3. Are we ready to take the next step with Phase II of the Memorial Garden?

Information about the meeting, along with an absentee ballot, has been sent to all members. If you need a printed version, please contact Ann Cilfone, uu.society.mv@gmail.com or [508-693-8982](tel:508-693-8982). If you cannot attend the meeting please submit your absentee ballot. There are printed ballots inside the door at Stevens Chapel.

Save the Date

Sunday, September 13, after service: Member meeting

Monday, September 14, 3 p.m.: Parish Committee, Stevens Chapel

Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.: Island Insight Meditation, all are welcome!

Monday, September 21, 3 p.m.: Membership & Hospitality Meeting, Stevens Chapel

Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m.: Men's Alliance Breakfast at Steve Engh's.

Tuesday, September 29, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.: New to UU Meeting, Stevens Chapel

