

### **Our Mission**

Working toward a more just and inclusive society,  
our congregation supports spiritual growth and service  
with open doors, minds, and hearts:

***Open doors*** for welcoming our diverse island  
communities and visitors;

***Open minds*** for exploring differing ideas  
and beliefs;

***Open hearts*** for deepening our connection  
with others and ourselves.

### ***James Sulzer's Bio***

Jim and his family have lived year-round on Nantucket since 1982. He taught English for 30 years (public schools and Nantucket New School) and has been a member of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society since 1982. He served as president of the Board of Trustees of the church and also served on the Short-Term Rental workgroup for the Town of Nantucket. He is married to Barbara Elder. His newest novel, released in December of 2025, is *All That Smolders: A Mystery*.

**Scan this QR code for Electronic Offerings**



### **Sunday Morning Participants**

**Service Leader - Paul Stewart**

**Guest Speaker - Jim Sulzer**

**Guest Music Director - Lauren Roberts**

**Youth Program Director - Leyah Jensen**

**Tech Assistant - Keely Farrell**

## ***Second Congregational Meeting House Unitarian Universalist***



## ***The Storyteller Within Us And the Element of Surprise***

***February 22nd, 2026***

## *Order of Service*

**Gathering Music**     Sonata no. 15 in C - Andante  
- WA Mozart

**Welcome**     Jan Ellsworth  
Board of Trustees

**Doxology**     All  
*From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let faith and hope with love arise,  
Let beauty, truth and good be sung,  
Through every land by every tongue.*  
- Isaac Watts (composite)

**Prelude**     Traumerei  
- Robert Schumann

**Opening Words**     Paul Stewart

**Lighting the Chalice**     Carol Benchley  
To bear love into this world  
We tend the spark of imagination and hope for the world to come.  
-By Rachael Hayes

**Hymn**     *For The Beauty Of The Earth*     #21

**Story for All Ages**     Leyah Jensen

**Singing the Children Out**  
*Go now in peace, go now in peace.  
May the light of love surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.*

**Reading**     On Imagination and Being an Ally     Suse Robinson  
-By Douglas Terry

## **Joys and Concerns**

**Meditation**     “For a Time I Rest in the Grace of the World  
and am Free”     Jan Ellsworth  
-By Wendell Berry

**Musical Response**     *Spirit Of Life*     #123

**Call to Offering**     Paul Stewart

**Offertory**     Romances Sans Paroles, 3. - Andante Moderato,  
- Faure

**Reading**     Stories in the Making     Cinda Gaynor  
-By Emily Richares

**Hymn**     *Winds Be Still*     #83

**Sermon**     The Storyteller Within Us and the Element of Surprise  
James Sulzer

**Hymn**     *Love Will Guide Us*     #131

**Extinguishing the Chalice**  
It is our work, shared with each other in covenant, that creates and  
sustains this beloved community. We extinguish this chalice, but its  
light lives on in the directions we have chosen today. The light of this  
faith lives on in us, together, in our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits.  
-By Krista Taves

**Closing Words**     Paul Stewart

**Postlude**     Meditation from Thaïs,  
- Massenet