



Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
11 Orange Street - P. O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter - December 2016

COMMON PATHWAYS *

By Reverend Linda Simmons

Living Into the Call

I have been listening and responding to the world with a heightened awareness. I am learning to become more sensitive to the needs of others around me who do not benefit from the privileges that I do.

According to [Peggy McIntosh](#), whites in Western societies enjoy advantages that non-whites do not experience, what she calls "an invisible package of unearned assets." White privilege denotes both obvious and less obvious passive advantages that white people may not recognize they have. These include cultural affirmations of one's own worth. The effects can be seen in professional, educational, and personal contexts. The concept of white privilege also implies the right to assume the universality of one's own experiences, marking others as different or exceptional while perceiving oneself as part of what constitutes the norm. For more of McIntosh's important work on white privilege, click here to read her piece "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack": <http://www.berkeleyca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/White20Privilege20Unpacking20the20Invisible20Knapsack.pdf>.

It is hard to take responsibility for so much right now, including white privilege. Sometimes I want to hide from it all. It is hard to watch the news, to hear about acts of racism, homophobia, and misogyny increasing around us. I feel overwhelmed in deciding what is best and right and necessary to do in response to it all.

And so I have decided to live with more personal integrity as a first step. I have decided to take responsibility for the ways in which I transgress the rights and spaces of others, no matter their color or gender or sexuality. I have decided to be more willing to recognize when my own frustrations, exhaustions, and limitations contribute to words and or actions that are not in line with my own desire to be a person of compassion and awareness. This does not mean that I will get it all right. It has to mean for me that I am willing to be accountable when I get it wrong, which is more often than I wish.

There is a great article called *Don't Bite the Hook, Five Things to Remember Post Election* published in the magazine, *Lion's Roar*. This is a # 3 in their list: Reestablish Dominion Over Your World:

"A friend of mine sent out an email this morning that suggested we each elect ourselves president....What can you do for your world? What or who needs tending? What needs to be added or eliminated? ...Most important, we could focus on removing every obstacle that stands between us and doing our true work in the world. We need you to own your brilliance, stop pulling punches, and offer your gift."

I have decided the best gift I can offer the world is my own willingness to be human, present and awake. That's my commitment post election. Have you made one? If so, perhaps we can talk about these and help each other with love and witness to live into them together. I know of no other way to change the world.



JOIN US AT 10:45
A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY
IN HENDRIX HALL

Sunday, December 4
"Waiting for Godot"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, December 11
"Embodied Faith"
Rev. Linda Simmons

Sunday, December 18
"Light Into Darkness"
Lay Led Service
Susan and Peter
Richards

Sunday, December 25
"Languages of Love"
Rev. Linda Simmons

**Families
Welcome!
Religious
Education for
Children Every
Sunday**

*Nantucket is full of common pathways, some known by many, others known only by a few. Our Meeting House brings us together, traveling over many pathways, some common, some not, as we learn to walk with each other even when the ways are unfamiliar and unmarked.

Board of Trustees Monthly Report— December 2016

The board met at our April retreat and set four congregational goals. We then brought them to the congregation in four town hall style meetings for your input. These were dynamic and creative meetings. At our retreat in October, the board took your feedback and over a three hour period, integrated it into the goal objectives. We hope you recognize your voice in what you find below.

We also decided to make these 3 year goals so that we all have time to bring them to fruition. Each year for the next three years, at our spring retreat, the board can now take the temperature on how we are doing and if our objectives are still meeting our goals and continue to provide more reflection to the congregation.

We are hoping in the next 3 years to begin the discussion of creating a mission statement together. We have done the work of establishing how we are, now it is time to establish who we are. More to come on this!

Thank you for participation. It takes a village and though we are small, we are mighty, compassionate and thoughtful. It is an honor to serve among you.

Jan Ellsworth
President Board of Trustees
ellsjan@verizon.net

December Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 3, 9 am—3 pm

Second Annual Christmas Stroll Craft and Gift Sale—Activities Room

Monday, December 5, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

Make It Stop Meeting—Activities Room

Monday, December 12, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Monday, December 19, 3:15 pm—5 pm

Shirat Ha Yam Hebrew School—Activities Room

Thursday, December 22, 11 am—12:30 pm

Food Rescue Meeting—Activities Room

Thursday, December 22, 6 pm—8 pm

Drumming—Activities Room

7th Principle Project Report

At the recently held 7th Principle Project meeting, Food Rescue Nantucket (FRN) and others reported on their progress to date.

- FRN now picks up from: The Culinary Center, Bartlett's Farm, Fast Forward, Espresso To Go, The Bean, The Lemon Press and The Green.
- FRN is working with two homeowner associations in Wauwinet, who have a multitude of summer rental properties, to establishing a location for a bin to deposit unopened, left over food from the weekly rental turn over. FRN would pick up and deliver to the Food Pantry.
- FRN recently held a meeting of potential volunteers and picked up 4 new people excited to be involved.
- An additional 5 folks are now participating in our household composting effort.
- We are continuing our gleaning project and added another plot to pick from at Sustainable Nantucket's Beginning Farmer's gardens.
- Cheryl Creighton will manage our Community Garden plot and invite folks from our immigrant community to share the plot to grow their own food.
- The 7th Principle Project voted unanimously to take *Make It Stop*, a newly formed island group working to make a difference in gun safety nationally, under their umbrella. The Meeting House will cast votes at our annual meeting to approve this decision or not.

If you have an interest in the Food Rescue work, please join our monthly meetings, held on the last Thursday of the month at 11 am in the activities room.

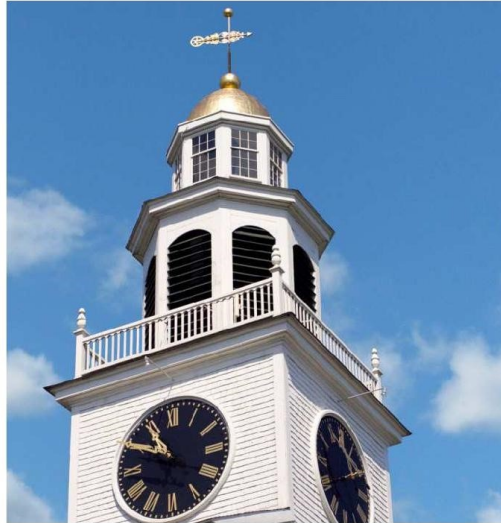
If you have an interest in joining the 7th principle project, please contact Gary Langley at gary@blinddogphoto.com

In community,

~ Gary



CHRISTMAS STROLL CRAFT AND GIFT SALE



Unitarian Universalist Meeting House 11 Orange Street

Enter through the side door to Hendrix Hall.

Get all your holiday shopping done in one place! Stroll into the Meeting House for homemade crafts and artisan items, jewelry, and white elephant items.

Saturday, December 3

9am – 3pm



Sermons for December

December 4: "Waiting for Godot" - Rev. Linda Simmons

It is advent in the Christian world, the time of waiting for the holy birth through which so much that is not right will be put right and suffering will be alleviated. What do you wait for to put things right again? Of what do you wish to be alleviated? This sermon will look at the play *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett and ask, Why and how do we wait and why might this matter.

December 11: "Embodied Faith" - Rev. Linda Simmons

What is embodied faith for us as Unitarian Universalists? It seems to include something about presence and reverence but how can we talk about this without a common language of the holy? What words might we find to embody the holy in this holiday season?

December 18: "Light Into Darkness" - Lay Led Service led by Susan and Peter Richards

Join lay-led service leaders Susan and Peter Richards as we recognize the spiritual (and spirited!) celebration that comes with the arrival of the Winter Solstice.

December 25: "Languages of Love" - Rev. Linda Simmons

This Christmas Day we'll sing lots of Christmas Carols, listen to the Christmas stories from around the world and talk about love. What better to do on Christmas morning?

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

~ The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

~ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

~ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

~ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

~ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

~ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

~ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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On Facebook: www.facebook.com/Nantucket-Unitarian-Universalists-75824801619/

Church Staff

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister (revlindasimmons@gmail.com)

~ **Edward B. Anderson, Minister Emeritus**

Diane T. Lehman, Music Director ~ **Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager**

Ed Sullivan, Sexton ~ **Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper**

Board of Trustees

Jan Ellsworth (*President*), Val Hall (*Vice President*), Paul Stewart (*Treasurer*), Steve Estabrooks (*Clerk*)

Cynthia Csabay, Joanna Greenfield, Christine Sanford, Clay Twombly, Lora Stewart

Rev. Linda Simmons (*Minister*)

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday, 10 a.m. - noon and by appointment