



Soul Matters

What does it mean to be
a people of MEMORY?



Contents

<u>Calendar Connections</u>	2
<u>Chalice Lightings & Opening Words</u>	3
<u>Meditations, Prayers & Blessings</u>	7
<u>Readings</u>	12
<u>Rituals</u>	19
<u>Music</u>	20
<u>Stories For All Ages</u>	23
<u>Sermon Seeds</u>	25
<u>Recommended Sermons</u>	31
<u>Closing Words</u>	34
<u>Support & Connection</u>	35

Calendar Connections

Click on the name on each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith:

- [All Saints Day](#) (Christian) - Nov. 1 (more [here](#))
- [All Souls Day](#) - Nov. 2 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Samhain](#) (Wiccan) - Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 [[more](#)]
- [Diwali: Festival of Lights](#) (Hindu) - Nov. 7
- [Birth of Baha'u'llah](#) (Baha'i) Nov. 9-10 [[more](#)]
- [Day of the Covenant](#) (Baha'i) Nov. 25-26

Unitarian Universalist:

- [James Luther Adams](#) birthday - Nov. 12 [[more](#)]
- [Francis David](#) died in prison on Nov. 15 (1579) (more [here](#))

National Holidays & Cultural:

- [Native American Heritage Month](#)
- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- [Dia de Los Muertos](#)/Day of the Dead - Oct.31 - Nov. 2
- Daylight Savings Time ends - Nov. 5
- U.S. Elections - Nov. 6
- Birthday of [Dorothy Day](#) - Nov. 8 (1897)
- [Veterans Day](#) - Nov. 11
- [Remembrance Day](#) (Canada) - Nov. 11 (observed Nov. 12)
- [Jamar Clark](#) is shot by police in Minneapolis - Nov. 16 (2015)
- [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) - Nov. 20 [[more](#)]
- [Thanksgiving Day](#) - Nov. 23
- [Tamir Rice](#) is shot by a police officer after carrying a toy gun in Ohio - Nov. 23 (2014)
- Grand jury decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson for the killing of Michael Brown, sparking protests in Ferguson and cities across the U.S., including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Boston. - Nov. 24 (2014)
- [Origin of Species](#) published & [Evolution Day](#) - Nov. 24

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- World Kindness Day - Nov. 13
- Mickey Mouse's Birthday - Nov. 18, 1928
- International [Guinness World Records Day](#) - Nov. 19
- [Buy Nothing Day](#) - Nov. 24
- Charles Schulz's Birthday - Nov. 26 (1922) (more [here](#) and [here](#) and on his [spirituality](#))

Chalice Lightings & Opening Words

For the Memory that Heals and Holds

Soul Matters

We light this chalice in honor of the memories that hold and heal us.
For stories we tell of those whose heroism inspires our own.
For the pictures of loved ones who have passed
 in whose images we see our better selves.
For the work of remembering that we stand on the shoulders of others
 who paved the path on which we walk
 and blessed us with advantages we didn't earn all on our own.
May these memories of those who came before
 inspire us to pass on a better world to those who will come after us.
May their light guide our way.

May This Sacred Hour Help Us Remember Who We Are

Soul Matters

May this sacred hour remind us of our better selves.
May the blending of voices help us remember that our beauty is found in contributing to the whole.
May the silence we share help us hear again the still small voice within.
May the stories told remind us we are not alone.
May this time of peace, set apart from the daily whirl, help us recall we always have the power to change our path.
We light this chalice to remember.
We kindle this flame to guide us on our way.

In Memory of All the Flames

Amarette Callaway

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/memory-all-flames>

("The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." -John 1:5 NRSV)

In memory of all the flames that didn't die—
in the midst of darkness,
in spite of the darkness,
we light this flame today.

Legacy

Paul Sprecher

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/legacy-chalice-lighting>

We light this chalice to honor the memory of those who have come before us,
kindling flames of wisdom in dark times,
willing to challenge orthodoxy even at great personal risk,
giving us a legacy of freedom and a love of truth,
A legacy that warms our hearts and lights our paths.

Here We Re-member Ourselves

Rev. Gretchen Haley

Give up the fight
For some other moment
Some other life
Than here, and now
Give up the longing
for some other world
The wishing
for other choices to make
other songs to sing
other bodies, other ages,
other countries, other stakes
Purge the past; forgive the future -
for each come too soon.
Surrender only to this life,
this day, this hour,
not because it does not constantly break your heart
but because it also beckons with beauty
startles with delight
if only we keep waking up.
This is the gift
we have been given:
these "body-clothes,"
this heart-break, this pulse
this breath,
this light,
these friends,
this hope.
Here we re-member ourselves
All a part of it all - Giving thanks, and centering joy.
Come, let us worship. Together.

We Gather Around

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harrisonburg Virginia

We gather around this flame that symbolizes:
the truth we know and the truth we seek,
the community we share and the community we aspire to,
the learning that enables us and the mystery that encompasses.
Here we speak the languages
of memory and hope.
Here we are welcomed,
our journeys embraced and shared.

For What Shall We Give Thanks?

Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/what-shall-we-give-thanks>

The wheel of the year has turned again.
Once more the Thanksgiving season has arrived.
How shall we sing our song of gratitude now?
For what shall we give thanks?

For this moment;
for friends near and far;
for our breath;
for love;
for courage and clarity;
for strength;
for delight;
for laughter;
for beauty;

for the tables round which we gather;
for the food we enjoy with friends,
seasoned with love and memory;

for the sun and moon and stars in the sky;
for the trees who have seen so much
and still stand proud, stretching themselves to the sky;

for the bright voices of children;
for the wisdom of elders;
for actions that bless the world;
for hard work that makes a difference;

for music and art and celebration;
for generosity;
for compassion;
for endurance;
for joy;
for hope.

For all these things, we give thanks
as we worship together.

We Come to Love a Church

Andrew C Kennedy

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/5433.shtml>

We come to love a church,
the traditions, the history,
and especially the people associated with it.
And through these people,
young and old,
known and unknown,
we reach out --

Both backward into history
and forward into the future --

To link together the generations
in this imperfect, but blessed community
of memory and hope.

All that we have ever loved

Leslie Takahashi

(put to song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDzLrheLQwY>)

All that we have ever loved
And all that we have ever been
Stands with us on the edge
Of all that we aspire to create:
A deeper peace,
A larger love,
A more embracing hope,
A deeper joy in this life we share.

Meditations, Prayers & Blessings

A Harvest Time Prayer

Rev. Max Coots, Minister Emeritus, UU Church, Canton, NY

<https://www.uusm.org/gratitude-for-the-garden>

Harvest [time is] an attitude, not a time of year. So maybe [We'll] be wise enough to feel a sort of litany of gratitude:

For seeds - that, like memories and minds, keep in themselves the recollection of what they were and the power to become something more than they are. . .

For soil - that accumulation of lives piled up by death that gives new life. . .

For the justice of the earth - that gave me about as many weeds and wilt and scab and bugs as vegetables but, in the end, gave me enough for what I need. . .

For hands - those miracles on the ends of my arms that let me tend my vegetables and pull my weeds, and for mind enough to know the difference between the two. . .

For calluses - life's defense against that softness that makes survival difficult. . .

For the ability to work and the will to work and the work to do, and the time to do it in. . .

And, finally, for that sense of kinship to it all, that singleness, that unity that is the basis of faith...

For these gifts that are the harvest of our lives, may we be grateful. Amen.

They Are with Us Still

Kathleen McTigue

In the -struggles we choose for ourselves,
in the ways we move forward in our lives
and bring our world forward with us,

It is right to remember the names of those
who gave us strength in this choice of living.
It is right to name the power of hard lives well-lived.

We share a history with those lives.
We belong to the same motion.

They too were strengthened by what had gone before.
They too were drawn on by the vision of what might come to be.

Those who lived before us,
who -struggled for justice and suffered injustice before us,
have not melted into the dust,
and have not disappeared.

They are with us still.
The lives they lived hold us steady.

Their words remind us and call us back to ourselves.
Their courage and love evoke our own.

We, the living, carry them with us:
we are their voices, their hands and their hearts.

We take them with us,
and with them choose the deeper path of living.

Prayer of Remembrance

Lori Walke

Full prayer found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-remembrance>

“...That’s the thing about people who are loved: their memories keep. They’re never too far away. They come to us in a song lyric or a line of movie dialogue or on a long walk. What was it that they always said? Oh, that’s right. And they always had to have it a certain way. So maybe we’ll do it that way, and laugh a little, in memoriam. Be with us, Holy One, as we grieve over the empty chairs at the table...”

Immortality

Leslie Takahashi

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/immortality>

In the daily weave of our lives, those who have died are still strong, guiding threads. Theirs is the golden glimmer or perhaps the brilliant red or the melancholy blue—still they are part of the whole cloth of our lives. They are the ancestors: the “goers before.”
Through this, we know immortality.

In the hour-to-hour rush of our daily tasks, they travel with us through something they taught us which is now ours to do, through something they loved which is now ours to carry out, through something we shared which is now ours alone and yet not.
Through this, we know immortality.

In the minute-to-minute grasp of where we are, we remember the joys our departed gave us which opened us up to hope, the sorrows we knew together which taught us strength, the life shared which is now ours to steward.
Through this, we know immortality.

In the second-to-second pulse of life, we sense the spirit of those we have loved and lost. This presence is too shy for naming, too amorphous for full knowing and yet as real as the days we shared.
Through this, we know immortality.

They are more than remembered, they are memory itself. For what we love lives on in the way our beloved dead accompany us through our life—their words and wisdom our guide, their humor our relief, their restless concern for the world our charge.
Through this, we know immortality.

Prayer on the Eve of an Election (for Election Day)

Tess Baumberger

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-eve-election>

Spirit of Wisdom,
As we prepare to elect new citizens to lead us,
in our communities, town and cities,
in our counties, states, and our heart-torn nation,
grant us wisdom and discernment
so that we may choose those of peaceful heart,
of competent mind and of servant spirit.

Spirit of the Harvest,
Help us to winnow the grain from the chaff
and to reap the legacy of freedom
our founders planted for all of us.
Help us to gather together as one people
united in concern for this country
founded upon such promising ideals.

Spirit of Healing,
Grant that we may bridge the breaches
that have opened between us.
Help us to understand one another,
to listen to the stories of who we are,
and to find common ground
on which we can move forward together.
Amen.

Thanksgiving Meditation

Elizabeth M Strong

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5494.shtml>

Let us rejoice for the families who have gathered this Thanksgiving to express their thanks and to celebrate the bounty of their lives.

Let us join together in support of those whose families are far away, with distances in many forms.

Let us hold one another in gentle reverence this holiday of Thanksgiving for we are here to celebrate, to worship, to be thankful for what we have.

Life, newly born among us this year, will carry our legacy into the future.

Death among us this year has given us tears of sorrow and yesterdays to remember.

Illnesses, accidents, and surgeries among us this year have reminded us of the fragileness of our lives.

We have had marriages, reunions, reconciliations. And, we have had, and still do have, our Beloved Community, our religious home where we come together in love and compassion.

For all these things, we give thanks this day.

Let us be silent together.

We Remember (Related to Veterans Day)

Heather K Janules

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/we-remember>

Spirit of life and love,
God of memory, mourning and history,
Bring before us the truths of serving in war
Bring before us—
In compassion and in gratitude—
Those who faced violence, so we may know peace

We remember these sacrifices through monuments
We remember these names, carved into stone
Inscribe them on our hearts this day
Inscribe them on our conscience every day
So, like the stone that bears their names,
Freedom from violence may endure
In our nation
And around the world.

Transgender Remembrance Prayer

Transforming Hearts Collective

<https://www.nationalweekendofprayer.org/prayers/>

Spirit of life and love that resides within and among us, we enter this moment with all that we are, with an open heart, and with a love for justice.

We hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance. We hold in love and prayer all the ways that transgender people have survived and thrived in a hostile world. We hold in love and prayer all who recognize the significance of gender justice for all people.

We who believe in freedom will not rest until it comes. We pray for the dawn of a new day when the very humanity of trans people is no longer called into question or ignored. We pray that physical, emotional, and spiritual violence will come to an end. We pray that a spirit of compassion and care will fill us to overflowing, that we may have the capacity to listen, learn, and grow not only in our awareness but also in our willingness to act. We pray for teachers, spiritual leaders, social workers, lawyers, and all people who heed the call to support Trans liberation, Trans leadership, and Trans visibility. May they ultimately lean into the Light of truth and justice, offering hope to Trans and gender nonconforming youth and adults.

On this day, we commit and recommit to creating a world where people of all genders know peace, love, and justice. We commit and recommit to living lives of compassion and care for all of humanity. We commit and recommit to the healing work of relationship-building that will help every person know, no matter their gender or sexuality, that they are loved and valued.

Amen

Transgender Remembrance Prayer - UU

Rev. Theresa I. Soto

<https://www.nationalweekendofprayer.org/prayers/>

Spirit of Life, In these difficult times, we ask for connection, to You, to ourselves, to one another, and to our greater purpose. We turn toward you, like a swift breeze, able to bring refreshment and life to our hearts that are burdened. We know that you know that transness is life and that You accept us and all the ways that we are, not as part of being human but as a multiplicity of expressions of love.

We call on you for strength, as the way before is long, and we have so far to travel. We travel toward Justice. Keep us focused on that. And to make that journey, we need safety and courage in equal measure. Give us both.

Soften the hearts of those who are causing their own suffering by clutching their transphobia so tightly. Show them the way back to their own humanity.

But above all, we ask for more love, around us, among us, between us. We give thanks and say amen.

Readings

Remember the Sky

Joy Harjo

Full poem found at <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/remember-0>

"...Remember your birth, how your mother struggled to give you form and breath. You are evidence of her life, and her mother's, and hers... Remember the earth whose skin you are...: Remember you are all people and all people are you..."

Breaths

Birago Diop

Full poem and background information found at <http://pancocojams.blogspot.com/2015/01/birago-diop-breaths-poem-sweet-honey.html>

"...The dead are not gone forever. They are in the paling shadows... The dead are not beneath the ground, They are in the rustling tree.. They are in a woman's breast, A child's crying, a glowing ember..."

"They say it's Cynefin!" - Returning To and Remembering Home

Rev. Carie Johnsen

From a blog reflection during a sabbatical trip to Wales: <http://www.everydayordinarytheologies.com/they-say-it-is-cynefin/>

[Introduction: "This blog reflects on my pilgrimage to the land of my ancestors. In the stories, I recall the journey of my grandmothers and my connection to the land and their stories. I discovered Wales was in my bones, in my dna..."]

As I travel around Cymru/Wales for the second extended stay (five weeks in the winter, six weeks over the summer), people often ask me why I have chosen to return to this specific place. Initially I fumbled over how to articulate and explain my affection for, connection with, and sense of belonging to this beautiful country, a place I had barely thought about until just a few years back. How does one describe an experience of arriving in a foreign country to be immediately met with a sensation of having come home? How does one describe an experience wherein one's internal busy-ness, preoccupations and anxious habits find that still, quiet center to guide and sustain? How does one share a heart at rest, a mind at peace, and a soul sustained? Sure, some might say, it has everything to do with the slow pace of sabbatical life, but I know it is beyond the obvious.

Well, I have learned the Welsh have a word for this sense of coming home, sense of belonging and connection to place. They call it cynefin.*

...'cynefin' would convey the sense that we all have multiple pasts of which we can only be partly aware: cultural, religious, geographic, tribal etc. The word is sometimes used to describe an environment where a person feels they belong[2][3] or knowledge and sense of place that is passed down the generations.[4] It can also refer to fleeting moments in time: "a place or the time when we instinctively belong or feel most connected. In those moments what lies beneath mundane existence is unveiled and the joy of being alive can overwhelm us."(<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/cynefin>)

I am told the farmers use this word to describe how a sheep knows its patch on the mountainside. The mountains are vast, and the sheep could certainly wander far afield but stay close to home. Sitting here, at the edge of Mynydd Du (Black Mountain), communing with grazing sheep, I have come to appreciate their sense of belonging to a place, their own a little patch in a vast world of possibilities. If only we humans could settle in and find peace in belonging to a little patch in a vast universe.

So, as the Welsh would say, there we have it then, it is cynefin; and yes, at times my heart is humbly overwhelmed with gratitude and joy for this time of being in a place that holds me in one big Cymru cwtch (Welsh embrace/hug).

September Meditation

Burton D Carley

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5479.shtml>

I do not know if the seasons remember their history or if the days and nights by which we count time remember their own passing. I do not know if the oak tree remembers its planting or if the pine remembers its slow climb toward sun and stars. I do not know if the squirrel remembers last fall's gathering or if the blue jay remembers the meaning of snow. I do not know if the air remembers September or if the night remembers the moon. I do not know if the earth remembers the flowers from last spring or if the evergreen remembers that it shall stay so.

Perhaps that is the reason for our births -- to be the memory for creation. Perhaps salvation is something very different than anyone ever expected. Perhaps this will be the only question we will have to answer: "What can you tell me about September?"

Drops of God

Tess Baumberger

Full poem found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5471.shtml>

God, God is journal of time marching
through eternity.
She is waking of seasons, phases of moon,
movements of stars.
She is grandmother, mother, daughter.
She is transcending spiral of ages
whose every turn encompasses the rest,
history a mere babe balanced on her hip.
She is spinning of universes
and ancestress of infinence.
She is memory, she is presence, she is dream.
And we, we are brief instants,
intersections, nanoseconds,
flashing gold-hoped moments in the eons of her.

My Memory Fails Me

Students at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York

<https://whitebearunitarian.org/hearts-will-work-again-09-27-15-sermon/>

My memory fails me. Things happened. We both experienced them. You saw them your way – colored by experiences in your past, or by resentment or impatience. I saw them my way – colored by fear, by pride, by the fact that I am myself and not you. So our memories of what happened were very different from the start. And then, before we knew it, memories hardened into myths and myths into dogma.

Now we find ourselves divided. We stare across the chasm, but we don't see each other. Parent. Partner. Friend. Child. Denomination. Nation. Race. Class. Creed. I'm tired of being alone on my side of the chasm. I'm using up so much energy fearing and resenting you. Sometimes I wish you and I could crack the dogma, peel away the mythology, and trade memories.

What would it be like if we could see each other's pictures of the history we share? If we could see each other? What we need here, you and I, is a little humility and a lot of house-cleaning. Humility: to say "only God sees history whole and knows the whole truth. All I have is my perception. It's valid, it's precious, it's fragmentary. Maybe I ought to try seeing as God sees, from all the angles." Housecleaning: Memory is selective, and I'm carrying around years of slanted, narrow memories. I can't see past them. It must be the same for you. What we need to do is let some of them go. Trade a few. Listen. Maybe, if I ask you how things look to you, between us we'll see something we never saw before.

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own (Remembering that We are a Step Along the Way)

Bishop Ken Untener of Sagnaw, in honor of Archbishop Oscar Romero,

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prophets-of-a-future-not-our-own.cfm>

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, An opportunity for [God's] grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

Forgetfulness

Billy Collins

Full reading at <https://onbeing.org/blog/hoping-to-rekindle-my-memory/>

The name of the author is the first to go
followed obediently by the title, the plot,
the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel
which suddenly becomes one you have never read,
never even heard of,
as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor
decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain,
to a little fishing village where there are no phones...

Time's Square Dance

Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon

Time happens so quickly
by the time something is happening
It feels like it's already almost over.
One moment links arms with the next,
Spinning in time's square dance
Each moment too gallant
to refuse as the next moment, taps their way in:
"Of course, your turn, my dear, "
Says the present to the future,
And wanders off to the sidelines,
standing there in that poorly lit hallway of nostalgia
waxing rhapsodic to its buddies
about what was and could have been
over cold punch and cookies.

Spiritual History

Rev. Mark Belletini

Source: "Sonata for Voice and Silence"

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/spiritual-history>

Let my body remember.

Let my hands and feet remember.

Let my breath remember

those who have come before me, those who have come before us.

Didn't Muhammad wait quietly in his cave?

And didn't Jesus sigh silently by the blue lake?

And Guan Yin, didn't she sit in silence

thinking about what to do before doing it?

And what was Siddhartha the Buddha doing
anyway under that tree if not just sitting quietly?

And Susan B. Anthony, didn't she push back
from her desk, and take a breath now and then?

And Florence Nightingale, didn't she
put down her nurse's hat and think silently about what to write
in her essay on mysticism before she actually wrote it?

And Sophia Fahs, didn't she stop telling
stories sometimes and just sit there?

And didn't Black Elk just notice the sunlight
glancing off his chair sometimes?

And Starhawk, does she only talk and write, or
does she too keep silence?

Let us remember them all with our bodies.

Let us remember them with the silence
they too knew.

We Remember Them

Roland Gittlesohn

<https://reformjudaism.org/all-we-do-we-remember-them>

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them;

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them;

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them;

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them;

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them;

When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them;

When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them;

When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them;

So as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

Readings for Services of Remembrance:

<https://austinuu.org/wp2013/those-that-have-gone-before/>

Where is That America of Mine? (Possible connection to Election Day)

Ariel Dorfman

<https://whitebearunitarian.org/keep-on-keeping-on-11-13-16-sermon/>

Let me tell you, America, of the hopes I have for you... How could I not wish you well?

You gave me, an americano from the Latino South,
this language of love that I return to you.

You gave me the hot summer afternoons of my childhood in Queens, calculating Jackie Robinson's batting average.

How could I not wish you well?

You gave me refuge when I was a toddler, my family fleeing the fascist thugs in the mid-1940's. I was one of you then. Still one of you now.

How could I not wish you well?

You offered me the freedom to speak out that I did not have before, you gave me the opportunity to write and teach,

you gave me a gringa grand-daughter:

how could I not love the house she lives in?

Where is that America of mine? Where is that other America?

Where is the America of "as I would not be a slave so I would not be a master,"

the America of "this land is our land, this land was meant for you and me,"

the America of all men, and all women, every one of us on this ravaged, glorious earth of ours, all of us, created equal?

Created equal: one baby in Afghanistan or Iraq as sacred as one baby in Minneapolis.

Where is my America?

The America that taught me tolerance of every race and every religion,

that filled me with pioneer energy,

that is generous to a fault when catastrophes strike?

Was I wrong when I believed America the just, America the rebellious, the unselfish, would rise to the challenge, was still alive,

not entirely spoiled by excessive wealth,

with the courage to conquer its own fear?

Am I wrong to believe that the country that gave the world jazz and Faulkner and Eleanor Roosevelt

will be able to look at itself in the cracked mirror of history and join the rest of humanity,

not as a city on a separate hill,

but as one more city in the shining valleys of sorrow and uncertainty and hope where we all dwell?

A chance to grow, America, that is my hope.

Rituals

Honoring Founders/Long-term Members

Mark Stringer

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/ritual/honoring-founders/longterm-members>

The following ritual—which could be used to honor a congregation's founders—is used at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines (IA) to honor decade(s) membership anniversaries. Those celebrating 10, 20, 30, etc. years of membership are invited on stage, given a rose for each decade of membership.

Music

Soul Matters Music Resources

Check out these five sources of support for music:

1. **Monthly Small Group Packet:** Our small group packets also contain music recommendations on the theme. These are intended for personal devotion and inspiration not community worship, but often the list does contain songs that can be used for worship services.
2. **UUMN (UU Musicians Network) Online Database:** The wonderful leadership of the UUMN have added our monthly themes to the UUMN music database. This provides a centralized place for Soul Matters musicians to post and share music ideas with each other. You also get to tap into the suggestions from other UU musicians from around the country. You can access the UUMN Music Database [here](#). More detail is provided on the "[music resources](#)" page in the members-only section of our Soul Matters website.
3. **Soul Matters Music Support Facebook Page:** This support page is for on-going sharing among Soul Matters musicians. Click [here](#) to go to the Facebook page.
4. **Soul Matters Worship Support Facebook Page:** This support page is for on-going sharing among worship leaders and teams. It is also a great source of music support. Click [here](#) to visit the page.
5. **Soul Matters Spotify Playlists:** We create a [Spotify](#) playlist for each month that includes a number of songs on the monthly theme. This is intended to provide inspiration for our small group participants but might be useful to musicians. Click [here](#) for links to the Spotify playlists for each month.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Easy & Accessible

6	Just as Long as I Have Breath
107	Now Sing We of the Brave of Old
336	All My Memories of Love

Challenging to Sing & Lead or Come with Text or Inclusivity Issues

96	I Cannot Think of Them as Dead
191	Now I Recall My Childhood
412	Let Hope and Sorrow Now Unite
1051	We Are...
279	By the Waters of Babylon
1042	Rivers Of Babylon
358	Rank by Rank Again We Stand

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Make Them Hear You

from Ragtime, Stephen Flaherty

About telling a story of denied justice to ensure the memory lives on

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/make-them-hear-you-from-ragtime-the-musical-sheet-music/1601698?ac=1#>

Standing on the Shoulders

Joyce Rouse (Earth Mama)

<https://www.earthmama.org/items/index/sheet-music/thumbnail>

Yes, I Remember It Well!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQxM5rJ-UiY>

Song from the musical "Gigi" - a dialog between a couple, describing in a very dear and funny way how we all remember things a little differently.

I Will Remember You

Sarah McLaughlin

We Remember Them

<https://www.seafarerpress.com/works/we-remember-them>

A tender setting of "A Litany of Remembrance"

Commissioned by First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, MN / Joseph Mish

Winner of the Vincent Brown Silliman Competition

Breaths

Sweet Honey in the Rock

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwLgxyVjwk4>

Video Meditation for an AIDS Film documentary: <https://vimeo.com/76378938>

Performed by The Flirtations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSII0uAh8yc>

Performed by The Capstone Choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY6YW74_Djg

"...Listen more often to things than to beings

Tis 'the ancestors' breath...

Those who have died have never, never left

The dead are not under the earth

They are in the rustling trees

They are in the groaning woods..."

*Lyrics based on "Breaths" by Birago Diop:

<http://pancocojams.blogspot.com/2015/01/birago-diop-breaths-poem-sweet-honey.html>

Wanting Memories

Ysaye M. Barnwell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vW2TpW4gCt8>

Performed by Northern Lights Chorale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEtKDrqEkEU&index=4&list=PLSZ-wP0Gvz4yOaDrIMpUIRjXweMR28GfN>

"I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.
Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty,
but I know I saw it clearly through your eyes..."

Listen To (and remembering all) The Voices

Holly Near · Emma's Revolution

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAWKXIV0tvU>

"Listen to the voices of the old women...
Listen to the voices of the First Nations...
Listen to the voices of the young children..."

Butterfly

Mia Makaroff

Performed by UCT Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAGwGw5UUcs&list=PLSZ-wP0Gvz4yOaDrIMpUIRjXweMR28GfN>

By chamber singers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtVv8X8ra40>

By Rajaton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR8rQnNXarY>

"...Love me, love me on the leaves,
Before we say goodbye.
Love me, kiss me with the breeze,
You will be my lullaby,
Tomorrow I'll die.
Tomorrow I'll die,
Tomorrow I'll die,
You'll be my lullaby..."

All that we have ever loved

Leslie Takahashi

Poem put to song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDzLrheLQwY>

All that we have ever loved
And all that we have ever been
Stands with us on the edge
Of all that we aspire to create:
A deeper peace,
A larger love,
A more embracing hope,
A deeper joy in this life we share.

Stories For All Ages

A Lamp in Every Corner

By Janeen K. Grohsmeyer, in her book *A Lamp in Every Corner: Our Unitarian Universalist Storybook*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/multigenerational/miracles/session-6/lamp>

Theme Connection: A reminder that we build memories over the generations. Invite the congregants to light candles as in a Candlelight Xmas Eve service style, to highlight the way our “Individual” flames make up the light that illuminates the way for us all.

“The years passed; Zora grew. The bronze lamp came into her care. She kept it polished and clean, and when the bell rang out across the valley to call the people to worship, she carried the lamp back and forth to the church on the hillside, the flame always lighting her way.

When the time came, she made more lamps and gave them to her children, who made more lamps and gave them to their children, and so it went, on through the years, even until today.” - from the story.

Local Story: The people who have made us and are making us who we are.

Who are the people who have saved the memories in your local congregation? A founder, an archivist, a photographer? Who is running the Partnership Church Program?

Honor them and tell their story for all ages.

Francis David (pronounced Dah-veed)

This year (2018) marks the 450th celebration of the Edict of Torda, the beginning of our liberal religion and this month marks the anniversary of the death of David in prison on Nov. 15, 1579.

Theme connection: This story is a reminder that memories of courageous actions are contagious. When we tell stories of “past heroes” we don’t just honor them, we increase our ability to act like them.

One story can be found at <https://www.uupcc.org/resources-partners/religious-education-resources> our UU Partnership Church Council, a story in which the teller assumes the role of Francis David (wearing a choir robe!).

Here is another version of a story from “Heresy Sunday” in “Lodestone; Magnetize Your Middle School” by Katie Covey:

During the dark and bloody days of war between the Holy Roman Empire and the Sultan for control of Eastern Europe in the 1560’s, there developed a true-life drama which is still regarded as a miracle of history. The two chief actors are Francis David - a minister and speaker of enormous power - and King John Sigismund - a spiritually intense man of 28 years old, whose slight body was no match for his moral courage. He was epileptic but drove himself to be adventurous, to join in rough sports like a gentleman and noble.

They lived in Transylvania, which means “the land across the forest.” Transylvania was in a howling uproar on the subject of religion. Public debates were as popular as tournaments and jousts had formerly been. Like tournaments, death or imprisonment could be the outcome for the loser. King John called a Diet (Dee- et, an Assembly) in Torda in January 1568. Francis David was the primary speaker for

the Unitarians. The King and the whole court were present and the debate lasted 10 days, beginning each morning at 5 a.m.

We must remember that at that time, there were burnings and torture inflicted on the supporters of freedom of religion, as well as the unity of God instead of the trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was a deadly serious subject and David defended his cosmic truth with the saying, "Egy Az Isten: God is One!" David's comments won the debate and King John Sigismund sent out a decree which made Transylvania the one nation in the world where the law stood behind religious liberty for all persons. On the way home, Francis David was greeted with fans lining the roads who had heard about his victory. As the procession came into view, fans cheered and shouted for their hero. Francis David stepped up on a boulder and gave the crowd the story of the debate - the King is on their side! This news was received with hysterical joy and they carried him off to the church in the square where he could be heard better. Legend has it that the whole city accepted the Unitarian faith then and there. - adapted from the book 400 Years by Edward Darling, published by the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN.

Or

Francis David and the Edict of Torda Skit For All Ages by the youth

Invite the youth group to re-enact the Edict of Torda. Grab a choir robe or two and volunteer to act it out for the congregation. Is there someone who could add a piece by Hungarian Unitarian composer Bela Bartok?

Joseph Jordan, Embodying Sankofa and Understanding Racism in Unitarian and Universalism

One of the ways our religion is embodying Sankofa ("Go Back and Get It") is to go back and do an honest even painful retelling of our UU history. One particular example is being led by the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, who is challenging us to learn and share the story of Joseph Jordan, the first African-American Universalist minister.

Theme Connection: a reminder that retrieving gifts from the past can be painful, but to not do it causes pain for others and it's a reminder that all of history, the painful and the joyful, needs to be included for us to be whole.

Joseph Jordan, First African-American Universalist minister

from Tapestry of Faith, Virtue Ethics, Respect

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/virtueethics/workshop4/building-respect>

"Joseph Jordan" adapted from the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, 2017 Minns Lecture "Historical and Future Trajectories of Black Lives Matter and Unitarian Universalism"

The Universalist denomination helped support the Norfolk, VA school and congregation. However, Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed completes the story by telling the painful and important parts of the story have been left out.

<https://vimeo.com/214295186>

In 1892, Joseph Jordan founded an African-American congregation in Norfolk, Va. Then, he wanted to found a Universalist theological school to train African-American ministers. He needed \$6,000.00 for this endeavor. He travelled the Northeast, raising funds but only was able to collect \$1,500.00.

To put this in perspective, in 1890, Universalists began their mission in Japan. In contrast to the reluctance to fund a theological school for coloreds, they contributed \$6,000.00 per year to the Japanese mission and up to \$275,000.00 at one point. This sad tale points out the systemic racism which existed in Universalist and Unitarian denominations. Morrison asks, “What would we be like now if there had been Black Universalist preachers preaching about God’s enduring love? What would our music be like if Black UU preachers sang with their congregations about freedom?”

We learn about UU racism in order to learn how to move forward into wholeness and into a more just and anti-racist society. The story continues below in the efforts of Joseph Jordan’s daughter, Annie B. Jordan Willis, to keep the school open despite the white, Universalist board decisions.

More stories of Black UU Ancestors- Four Stories: TeachIn2 Resources

<https://www.uuteachin.org/copy-of-teachin2-education-child-yo>

Additional stories of Black UU Ancestors to tease out the theme connections mentioned above: telling courageous stories of the past makes us courageous and telling the painful memories makes us whole and acknowledges the pain of others. Developed by Gail Forsyth-Vail and Jamaine Cripe. Stories of Rev. Lewis McGee, Annie B. Jordan Willis, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, and Fannie Barrier Williams.

Sermon Seeds

Angles, Ideas & Twists To Get Your Sermon Started!

Don't forget to explore the small group packet for additional sermon seeds. It contains quotes and poems to enhance your sermon, as well as numerous sermon angles in the questions and the spiritual exercises.

Remembering - Poem

William Stafford

Full poem found at <https://wordsoftheyear.com/2018/07/02/remembering-by-william-stafford/>

"...I carry those days in a tiny box
wherever I go, I open the lid...
There is a sigh like my breath when I do this.
Some days I do this again and again."

Everything is Waiting For You - Poem

David Whyte

(Remembering that the world is awake, and we are never alone.)

Full poem found at <https://onbeing.org/blog/david-whyte-everything-is-waiting-for-you/>

"...Your great mistake is to act the drama
as if you were alone. As if life
were a progressive and cunning crime...
To feel abandoned is to deny
the intimacy of your surroundings..."

Remembering Wisdom - Quote

Cynthia Bourgeault

<https://cac.org/remembering-wisdom-2015-01-06/>

"The real Source of Wisdom lies in a higher or more vivid realm of divine consciousness that is neither behind us nor ahead of us but always surrounding us.... [Wisdom] seems to go underground for a while; one loses the thread. Then, in ways inexplicable to linear causality, it pops up again. It re-creates itself over and over, so it seems, in the minds and hearts of those who have been taught (or discovered on their own) how to listen and see. It never really goes away, and it always comes back in a fresh new form."

The Right to be Forgotten - Reflection

Talha Jalal

<https://onbeing.org/blog/talha-jalal-the-right-to-be-forgotten/>

A deeply contemporary reflection on "the right to be forgotten" and the desire for our current, real-life selves to represent us rather than the selves housed on the internet from long ago.

Etel Adnan on Memory, the Self and the Universe - Essay

Maria Popova

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2017/08/10/etel-adnan-night-memory/>

"Is memory produced by us, or is it us? Our identity is very likely whatever our memory decides to retain. But let's not presume that memory is a storage room. It's not a tool for being able to think, it's thinking, before

thinking. It also makes an (apparently) simple thing like crossing the room, possible. It's impossible to separate it from what it remembers... Memory is intelligent. It's a knowledge seated neither in the senses, nor in the spirit, but in collective memory. It is communal, though deeply personal. Involved with the self, though autonomous. At war with death..."

Speak, Memory - Article

Oliver Sacks

<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2013/02/21/speak-memory/?pagination=false>

"Legendary neurologist Oliver Sacks exposes the remarkable mechanisms by which we fabricate our memories, involuntarily blurring the line between the experienced and the assimilated...One phenomenon Sacks argues is particularly common — if not adaptive — in the creative mind is that of autoplagerism..." - [Maria Popova](#)

Memory: Fragments of a Modern History - Book

Alison Winter

https://www.amazon.com/dp/0226902587/ref=as_li_ss_til?tag=braipick-20&camp=0&creative=0&linkCode=as4&creativeASIN=0226902587&adid=0GAAHCB7WG712CF06EWY&

"Explores how the science and understanding of memory evolved over the past century, from early metaphors that likened it to a filing cabinet to the quasi-science of the prewar era's "truth serums" to the psychology of false confessions and the latest neuroscience breakthroughs... [in which our understanding of memory] is shifting from retentional to relational, elevating the importance of the ability to retrieve and connect information over that of the ability to retain it..."

Joan Didion - Quote

from "On Keeping a notebook" in Slouching Towards Bethlehem

We are well advised to keep on nodding terms with the people we used to be, whether we find them attractive company or not. Otherwise they turn up unannounced and surprise us, come hammering on the mind's door at 4 a.m. of a bad night and demand to know who deserted them.

Alice Walker - Quote

To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves.

French proverb - Quote (possible angle for Thanksgiving sermon)

Gratitude is the memory of the heart.

A Polite Word for Liar -Revisionist History

Malcolm Gladwell

<http://revisionisthistory.com/episodes/23-a-polite-word-for-liar-memory-part-1>

"One early morning in July of 1945, a group of Allied soldiers raided a rooming house full of Nazis in Munich. It ended in a ferocious gun battle. Or maybe this happened April of 1946. And maybe there weren't Nazis in the house: maybe there were just some old women, knitting. And was there actually a gun battle? For the rest of their lives, two of the men who were there — a dashing handsome undercover spy, and the world's most famous harmonica player — argued about what really happened that night. This is part one of two episodes about memory, in which we try to get to the bottom of the mystery."

Free Brian Williams -Revisionist History

Malcolm Gladwell

<http://revisionisthistory.com/episodes/24-free-brian-williams>

“NBC news anchor Brian Williams told a war story on national television. It wasn’t true. But does that make him a liar? Part two of Revisionist History’s memory series asks why we insist that lapses of memory must also be lapses of character.”

Blog: The Stories We Choose to Tell Matter: Highlights from Unitarian Universalist History January 28, 2013

Carl Gregg

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/2013/01/the-stories-we-choose-to-tell-matter-highlights-from-unitarian-universalist-history/>

“We draw from many different sources, but at our best, Unitarian Universalism is more than the sum of its parts. And I’m even more convinced after this past week that it really matters what stories we choose to tell from our history...”

George Santayana - Quote

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

The True Story of the Colonization of the United States of America (Context for thinking about the Thanksgiving Holiday)

<https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/dod/what-doctrine-discovery>

Remembering the birth of the Africa to America Transatlantic Slave Trade

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/transatlantic-slave-trade-voyages-ships-log-details-africa-america-atlantic-ocean-deaths-disease-a8494546.html>

“2018 marks the 500th anniversary of one of history’s most tragic and significant events – the birth of the Africa to America transatlantic slave trade. Exactly five centuries ago – on 18 August 1518 - the King of Spain, Charles I, issued a charter authorizing the transportation of slaves direct from Africa to the Americas. Up until that point (since at least 1510), African slaves had usually been transported to Spain or Portugal and had then been transshipped to the Caribbean. Charles’s decision to create a direct, more economically viable Africa to America slave trade fundamentally changed the nature and scale of this terrible human trafficking industry. Over the subsequent 350 years, at least 10.7 million black Africans were transported between the two continents. A further 1.8 million died en route...”

“Sankofa” and the Call to Return to the Past in Order to Move Fully into the Future

Various resources:

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/zahra-baitie/sankofa-return-and-get-it_b_4066164.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zON37u44ObI>

<https://vimeo.com/139143965>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zl6Mlo0ohPU>

<http://www.meadville.edu/library-and-archives/special-collections-2/sankofa-special-collection/>

Remembering The Black Empowerment Tragedy - UU World Magazine

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/empowerment-tragedy>

Black Pioneers in a White Denomination

Rev. Mark Morrison Reed

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Black-Pioneers-in-a-White-Denomination-P16859.aspx>

Revisiting the Empowerment Controversy

Rev. Mark Morrison Reed

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Revisiting-the-Empowerment-Controversy-P18363.aspx>

Dia de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead

Cultural Appropriation: How Not to Celebrate The Day of the Dead

<http://www.talkdeath.com/cultural-appropriation-how-not-celebrate-day-of-the-dead/>

Celebrating Día de Muertos Without Appropriating

<https://latinaish.com/2016/10/20/celebrating-dia-de-muertos-without-appropriating/>

Coco & Remembering Disney's Failures at Culturally Accuracy and Sensitivity:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/19/movies/coco-pixar-politics.html>

<https://yp.scmp.com/news/features/article/107957/sure-disney-pixars-coco-culturally-sensitive-here-are-7-times-they-went>

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Alzheimer's and the Spiritual Terrain of Memory - On Being Podcast

<https://onbeing.org/programs/alan-dienstag-alzheimers-and-the-spiritual-terrain-of-memory/>

"Alzheimer's disease has been described as "the great unlearning." But what does it reveal about the nature of human identity? What remains when memory unravels? Alan Dienstag is a psychologist who has led support groups with early Alzheimer's patients, as well as a writing group he co-designed with the novelist Don DeLillo. He's experienced the early stages of Alzheimer's as a time for giving memories away rather than losing them..."

Pieces of my Memories: A Poem to Alzheimer's

Alyea Pierce

What they teach us about what **WE** forget.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPR_1pXXSyE

Veterans' Day

The Things They Carried (Connecting memory and Veterans' Day) - Book

Tim O'Brien

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B002TWIVNA/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

"By questioning the role that imagination plays in helping to form our memories and our own versions of truth, he places "The Things They Carried" high up on the list of best fiction about any war..." -

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/98/09/20/specials/obrien-carried.html>

Buy Nothing Day - Nov. 24

The Earth Wants You by Rev. Billy Talen (and the Church of Stop Shopping)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01DV1Y7YE/ref=dp-kindle-redirect? encoding=UTF8&btkr=1>

Honoring James Luther Adams Birthday - November 12

Church as the place where we come to remember who we are...

“Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human.” - James Luther Adams

Remembering what makes us unique...

“We are not a religious tradition with a creed, but a religious movement that has always wedded social justice work to theology.” - James Luther Adams

Remembering that we are all theologians...

“Everyone is a theologian, either conscious or unconscious, in the sense that everyone has some conception of the nature of reality, of the demands of reality, and of those elements in reality that support or threaten meaningful existence.” - James Luther Adams

Remembering the test of an “adequate faith”...

“The faith of a church or of a nation is an adequate faith only when it inspires and enables people to give of their time and energy to shape the various institutions - social, economic, and political - of the common life.”

- James Luther Adams

On the Practice of Memento Mori

Remember That You Will Die

<http://theweek.com/articles/728528/remember-that-die>

Memento Mori — How Remembering Your Mortality Improves Your Life

<https://medium.com/@Jos91/memento-mori-how-remembering-your-mortality-improves-your-life-b056036b76db>

Why Remembering Death Will Change How You Live

<https://alyjuma.com/memento-mori/>

The App That Reminds You You’re Going to Die

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/01/when-death-pings/546587/>

“Five times a day for the past three months, an app called WeCroak has been telling me I’m going to die. It does not mince words. It surprises me at unpredictable intervals, always with the same blunt message: “Don’t forget, you’re going to die.”...”

One day I will Die - Video Meditation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su9oOdnT8w0>

Should You Live for Your Resume... or Your Eulogy? - TED Talk

David Brooks

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_brooks_should_you_live_for_your_resume_or_your_eulogy?utm_campaign=Because+life+is+short.+%28M8g2vY%29&utm_medium=email&_ke=eyJrbF9lbWFpbCI6ICJ1dW1pbmlzdGVyQG1lLmNvbSlzICJrbF9jb21wYW55X2lkijogImMyTVNyVSJ9&utm_source=6.+Holstee+Best+Reflections

How do you want to be remembered? "Within each of us are two selves, suggests David Brooks in this meditative short talk: the self who craves success, who builds a résumé, and the self who seeks connection, community, love -- the values that make for a great eulogy. (Joseph Soloveitchik has called these selves "Adam I" and "Adam II.") Brooks asks: Can we balance these two selves?"

Steve Jobs - Quote

Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

Seneca - Quote

No one will bring back the years; no one will restore you to yourself. Life will follow the path it began to take and will neither reverse nor check its course. It will cause no commotion to remind you of its swiftness, but glide on quietly. It will not lengthen itself for a king's command or a people's favor. As it started out on its first day, so it will run on, nowhere pausing or turning aside. What will be the outcome? You have been preoccupied while life hastens on. Meanwhile death will arrive, and you have no choice in making yourself available for that.

Painful Memories

Time Does Not Heal All Wounds - On Being Reflection

<https://onbeing.org/blog/omid-safi-time-does-not-heal-all-wounds/>

How to Mindfully Transform a Painful Memory

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ronald-alexander-phd/mindfulness-practice_b_4047094.html

Recommended Sermons

Hearts will Work Again

Victoria Safford

Audio & Text: <https://whitebearunitarian.org/hearts-will-work-again-09-27-15-sermon/>

Memory is fickle and human beings are complicated. How do you hold the wholeness of a person, and your own wholeness, and injury and tenderness, anger and resilience, through the mystery of memory? How do we hold each other, see each other, and hold the complicated stories of our complicated living?

The Legacies We Leave Behind

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

<https://ucmvt.org/app/uploads/2015/11/nov-22-2015.mp3>

A sermon that reminds us that memory doesn't just invite us to look back but also to pay attention to our current living and loving. Memory's question is not just "Do you remember?" but "How do you want to be remembered?"

Remembering Our Ancestors (and the gifts they've woven into us)

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

<https://ucmvt.org/app/uploads/2015/11/nov-8-2015.mp3>

We are each part of a larger story of those who came before us and those who will come after us. Remembering our past and grappling with the difficult truths that the past might contain is a part of living and shaping our life stories.

A Harvest of Grace

Rev. Daniel Gregoire

Video: <http://www.revdanielgregoire.com/sermons>

Memory as the means of passing on the courage and gifts of those who have gone before.

"Our task is to learn who planted this orchard that we are now sitting in and to lift up their names. Our task is to name the names and celebrate the fact that we are a people of many stories. Our expressions of faith are not ours alone but the latest iteration of a multigenerational and multicultural enterprise. We are standing on the shoulders of many giants. As the season of harvest as it comes upon us - it is a time to celebrate the lasting gifts and the many fruits of unseen hands."

Memento Mori: Wisdom from the Ancient Stoics

Rev. Andy Burnette

Remembering death and the key to the good life...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YToBvcApKvc>

Memento Mori - Life's Companion

Jamila Batchelder and the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

<https://uuchurch.net/blog/2017/03/07/march-5-2017-memento-mori/>

A Spiritual Perspective on Alzheimer's (Nov. is Alzheimer's Awareness month)

Rev. Anthony D. Makar

Video and Text: <http://www.uuca.org/a-spiritual-perspective-on-alzheimers/>

As Unitarian Universalists, we have a spiritual perspective we affirm. We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person; the free and responsible search for truth and meaning... But how might we understand these affirmations in light of Alzheimer's?

Remembering Our UU History

Unitarians and Abolition

Meg Barnhouse

<https://austinuu.org/wp2013/unitarians-and-abolition/>

A more accurate remembrance of Unitarians and Abolition. Some were heroes, others not very heroic at all. It seems that we have always been, and still are, a mixture of passion and fear, militant and hesitant, part of the solution and part of the problem.

Unitarians in India (remembering our faith is larger than just in the US)

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

<https://www.cedarlane.org/worship-and-sermons/archive>

The service will explore the history and development of Khasi Unitarianism in Northeast India and its strong ties to Unitarian Universalism.

Religious Festivals of Remembrance

Tell Them I Said Yes To Love!

Rev. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

<https://soundcloud.com/first-parish-brookline/tell-them-i-said-yes-to-love>

On the Days of the Dead, All Souls Day, and Samhain...

Boney Hands: Touching on El Dia De Los Muertos

Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

<http://ccuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Sermon%202014-11-02%20El%20Dia%20De%20Los%20Muertos.pdf>

Celebrating Samhain

The Rev. Dr. J. Carl Gregg & Irene Jericho

<http://www.frederickuu.org/sermons/Samhain.pdf>

Diwali: Festival of Lights

Dasara & Diwali

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi & Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUK1thjOLLI>

Diwali: Courage, Humility, Community!

First Unitarian of San Jose

<https://www.sanjoseuu.org/OurWorshipLife/sermons/2017/2017-10-22%20Sermon%20-%20Diwali%20%20three%20reflections.pdf>

Veterans Day and Canadian Day of Remembrance

Reflections on Veterans in Two Voices:

Karen G. Johnston, Intern Minister | Rev. Elea Kemler

<https://uugroton.org/nbu/public/sermons/2015-11-08-ek.mp3>

<https://uugroton.org/nbu/public/sermons/2015-11-08-kj.mp3>

They Just Fade Away: Veterans Day Sermon

Rev. David Pyle

<http://celestiallands.org/wayside/?p=129>

War & Peace: Reflections & Readings on Remembrance Day (Canada)

Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk, Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, Thunder Bay, Ontario

http://www.luf.ca/assets/files/Sermons_RevWasilczuk2012/War_Peace_11-11-12.pdf

Transgender Day of Remembrance

God is Trans

Rev. Gretchen Haley

<https://revgretchenhaley.wordpress.com/2018/07/18/god-is-trans-sermon-july-15-2018/>

The 'He' and 'She' of it All

Rev. Bill Sinkford

<http://www.firstunitarianportland.org/podcast/rev-bill-sinkford/>

Thanksgiving

Turning Toward Truth: Forging a new understanding of Thanksgiving

Capital Area Multi-faith Association,

with UU clergy leader, Rev. Carie Johnsen of the UU Community Church, Augusta

<http://www.everydayordinarytheologies.com/turning-toward-truth-forging-a-new-understanding-of-thanksgiving/>

A Thanksgiving Sermon - LIES MY HISTORY TEACHER TOLD ME (& Truths we should remember)

Tony Lorenzen

<https://sunflowerchalice.com/2008/11/26/a-thanksgiving-sermon-lies-my-history-teacher-told-me/>

“The memory so many of us have of grade school Thanksgiving plays is a religious ritual from the American Civic religion liturgy. Pilgrims in black hats invite Indians to dinner and share their food with them. The story is backwards...”

Closing Words

Remembering That We Do Not Walk Alone

Soul Matters

May we remember that we never walk out into the world alone.
We stand on the shoulders of brave and generous ones who have gone before.
We walk beside companions ready to catch us when we fall.
We hold memories of dear ones in our hearts, who keep us connected to our center.
May we make this our most important work:
to remember that who we are does not end at the edges our own skin.

To Re-Member the World

Soul Matters

We go with the call and the challenge
to “re-member” the world.
May we do our part
to restore what has been broken,
to return trust where doubt and betrayal now live, and
to repair hearts whose hope has been lost.
And as we give ourselves to this sacred work of healing and wholeness,
May we find ourselves re-membered as well.

We All Emerge

Eric Williams

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/benediction/we-all-emerge>

We all emerge from
Dwell within
Are transformed by
And called back to Love.
[May this be ours to remember]
May our minds be humbled before this Mystery.
May our hearts grow hopeful by it.
May we be sustained always by this Love.

In Our Hungering for Meaning

Bruce Southworth

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/6011.shtml>

In our hungering for meaning,
In our aching for friendship,
In our yearning for justice,
In our heart's remembering of finer days,
May we look deep within the mystery of things
and gather our strength.
May each of us proclaim, as one of God's spies,
the graceful power of life and love
and so may we live in hope. Amen.

Opportunities For Support & Connection

Join the Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Join the Soul Matters Worship Leader Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Join the Soul Matters Ministers' Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/719788338192570/>

Attend one of our two monthly online ministers' brainstorming groups:

First Tuesdays and First Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern time

Attend our monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:

The date changes each month. Email Rev. Scott to get more information.

Find musical inspiration on our Soul Matters Spotify music playlists:

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

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Learn how to join at <http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>