

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard
December 8, 2024
"Strengthening Democracy: the Power of the Civic Sphere"
with Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

"The voluntary association has become the characteristic and indispensable institution of a democratic, pluralistic polity — in contrast to an authoritarian or totalitarian polity."
James Luther Adams 1972

Ringing the Bell

Welcome and Community Connection Liz Loucks

Prelude Peter Halperin

Opening Words by Thomas Merton Liz Loucks

Chalice Lighting "Persist in Faith" by Pat Uribe -Lichty Liz Loucks

Hymn #123 "Spirit of Life" Peter Halperin

Candles of Joy and Concern Liz Loucks

Prayer "A Charm for Hope" by Julian Jamaica Soto Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Offering Liz Loucks

Offertory Music Peter Halperin

Reading Voluntary Associations of James Luther Adams from the UUA Leader Resource"

Sermon "Strengthening Democracy: the Power of the Civic Sphere"
Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Closing Hymn #323 "Break Not The Circle"

Benediction/Blessing Words of Octavia Butler Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Postlude "This Land is Your Land" Peter Halperin

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley (he/they) was ordained to UU ministry in 1997. In his ministry he has served congregations in 6 states in settled, interim and contract ministry. He is a transgender man and currently serving as the Minister of Social Action at First Parish in Concord MA. He is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and the International Institute for Restorative Practices. He consults with congregations and communities on the integration and implementation of restorative practices and facilitates restorative circles for congregations in conflict.

He has served our Association in numerous leadership roles in the UUA and UUMA. Paul was appointed to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in 2021. He lives in New Bedford Massachusetts with his two cats, Odin and Loki.

Thank you to our volunteers The Men's Alliance for our service support, providing refreshments and for visual arts/flowers.

Holiday Poinsettias

Holiday Poinsettias are available for purchase "in memory or in honor of" a person (s) dear to you or to simply enjoy this holiday season. They will decorate the stage at the Candlelight Service December 15th at 5 pm. You may take one home after the service, or we will deliver them to members who are unable to join us. Each poinsettia will be \$20 and checks can be made out to 'UUSMV' with poinsettia in the memo line, you can pay cash at the Chapel or online at www.UUSMV.org. All order must be in by December 10th. Follow this link to order yours: [Holiday Poinsettias](#)

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 (Bill Bridwell, Jan Casey, Kevin Longval) 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

Events

Sunday, December 8, after service: Member Meeting to discuss Budget & Ministries 2025

Sunday, December 8, 8:30 - 9:30 pm: Young Peoples AA (Stevens Chapel)

Monday, December 9, 3 pm: Parish Committee (Zoom)

Friday, December 13, 10 am: Let's Have A Visit (Zoom)

Friday, December 13, 5:30-7:30 pm: Ornament Painting Party

Sunday, December 15, 5 pm: Candlelight Service and Potluck!

Sunday, December 15, 8:30 - 9:30 pm: Young Peoples AA (Stevens Chapel)