

UUFM Monthly Theme: Building Community

"In true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often, they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as that place where the person you least want to live with lives... Community will teach us that our grip on truth is fragile and incomplete."

Parker Palmer, *A Place Called Community*, 1977

Order of Service August 23rd, 2026: The Challenges of Building Community

Congregational Greeting

Bell Chime

Welcome and Announcements

Chalice Lighting For those attending by Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street]:

We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Opening words A Blessing Called Sanctuary by Jan Richardson

Hymn #168 "One More Step" words and music by Joyce Poley, harmony by Grace Lewis-McLaren

Story *Just Ask: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* written by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael López

Sorrows and Joys

Singing Prayer To the tune of **#1002** (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein

Comfort me, share my joy/ Comfort me, Oh my soul. (2x)

Offertory

Poem "If You Want a True Friend" by Mark Nepo

Hymn #318 "We Would Be One" written by Samuel Anthony Wright, music by Jean Sibelius

Homily and Meditation

Poem "We Are All More Human Than Otherwise" by Richard S. Gilbert

Prayer "Let Us Learn Peace" by Annie Foerster

Hymn #1023 "Building Bridges" (2x) written by the women of Greenham Common Peace Occupation, music by the Contemporary English Quaker Round

Chalice Extinguishing

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Singing Benediction "Longtime Sun," the final three minutes of "A Very Cellular Song" written by Mike Heron and performed by The Incredible String Band on their 1968 album *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter*.

May the long time sun shine upon you/All love surround you

And the pure, pure light that's within you/ Guide your way home (2x)