

Melanie Davis, PhD, CSE Unitarian Universalist Lay Speaker

Melanie's services are journeys in words and music that encourage self-examination and acceptance as well as personal and spiritual growth.

She provides opening and closing words, readings, meditations, sermons and hymns. A gifted singer, she can lead hymns and perform preludes and musical interludes.

Melanie is a lifelong UU and founding member of the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills. She is the UUA's Our Whole Lives Program Associate and is a member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry.

Melanie delivers professional development training and private sexuality education consulting for teens and adults. She holds a PhD in Human Sexuality Education and is a nationally certified sexuality educator. She is co-president of the Sexuality and Aging Consortium at Widener University.

Congregations are saying...

It was a pleasure having you preach for us. Your use of humor, solid intellectual understanding of your theme, and reference to varied religious traditions created a very engaging sermon. Your singing with our house band was music ministry at its best. Peter Horton, Central Unitarian Church, Paramus, (NJ)

"I heard very positive feedback about your sermon and your beautiful voice. You offered a magical package that morning: beautiful songs, both touching and uplifting; a great story for the kids (you are a gifted story teller); and an inspiring sermon that was really worth hearing and remembering." Jack Drucker, Unitarian Church of Montclair (NJ)

"Melanie looks at things in a new way and delivers a message that is accessible to everyone. She was also very easy to work with: She prepares complete services and was very flexible regarding our congregation's needs." Kelly Jin-Hendel, UU Congregation of Queens (NY)

"I just wanted to thank you again for your beautiful service last Sunday. Our Fellowship loved your heartfelt message, your singing, and your vibrant personality." Jim Ellasenor, UU Congregation of the Poconos (PA)

"You really changed my way of thinking about faith. I do have so much faith. I have faith in the power of love and caring we give and receive. I have a faith that the next generation will carry on and change the world for the better. I felt blessed hearing you on Sunday." Linda Darks, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship (WA)



Worship Services

Stop Fixing; Start Listening

When crisis strikes, our most important ministry is to take those in distress where they need to go, rather than where we think they should go for solutions. Learn how to stop fixing and start listening.

Jaguars, Sugar Daddies and Lonely Hearts: Shattering Myths about Sexuality and Aging

Mid- and older age can provide one's most satisfying sexual experiences, yet harmful stereotypes mean that long-term care residents often lose their sexual rights, while lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors often hide their sexuality for self-protection. Our 1st and 2nd UU principles call out for advocacy on this social justice issue.

Jumping Into Change

Are you listening to what calls you? If you jumped at a chance to change your life, might you stand on the holy ground of being your true self? Hear stories of six people whose mid-life shifts paid off.

The Abstract Art of Parenting

The 2nd UU principal can be expressed in the parenting of children, oneself, siblings, aging parents, and the Earth, when practiced with compassion, creativity, and commitment.

A UU Take on Faith & Miracles

Words can trigger emotional responses related to a listener's spiritual journey. Learn how two hot-button words can be relevant to the lives and beliefs of religious liberals.

Honoring Your Inherent Worth & Dignity

UUs covenant to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people but may neglect to affirm their own. Learn a spiritual framework for recognizing one's own value through affirming self-talk.

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