

Spirit in Nature (SPiN)
our signage recommendations

Choose up to 8 sayings/passages you would like to see on SPiN's UU path.

Indicate your choice by placing your initials under the saying/passage.

Make your choices by **Friday, September 6.**

The process: We are a recommending body to the SPiN Board, which has the final say as to what is posted. An ad-hoc group from CVUUS (Rev Tricia, Rev Christina, Brett, Susie, Mary H., Mike) will review the choices you made and select the sayings/passages for the SPiN board to accept. The CVUUS group will be using theme, gender, and diversity as criteria. Once that selection is made, we will notify all which eight have been moved on to the SPiN Board for consideration.

FYI: Susie is on the SPiN **Signage Committee.**

Thank you for participating!

1

Rev. Francis David (Ferenc David)

We need not think alike to love alike.

Reverend Ferenc David (c. 1520-1579), or Francis David, was a Unitarian preacher and theologian from Transylvania, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, and a leading figure during the Protestant Reformation. Rev. David is perhaps best known for his advocacy for freedom of belief and for the idea that our understanding of religious and spiritual principles may change over the course of time--that is, that we should be a people of open minds and open hearts.

2

Anthony Y. Springer

African Spirit

There is a Spirit within nature
and a Spirit within me.
Perceiving Its presence,
I am filled with joy,
and I strive to be mindful.
Perceiving Its grandeur,
I am filled with reverence,
and I approach worship.
Perceiving Its power,
I am filled with humbleness,
and I strive to be in harmony
Perceiving Its beneficence.
I am filled with gratitude,
and I am moved to serve others.
Perceiving Its creativity,
I am filled with awe,
and I am inspired to create.
Perceiving Its mystery,
I am filled with wonder,
and the passion to discover.
This then is the Spirit within nature,
and the nature of the Spirit within me.
Ashe.

3

Robert Senghas

We are seekers who wish to discover and face what is true about our own lives and about the world in which we live. We like to hide from truth when it tells us what we prefer not to hear, but we must continue as pilgrims seeking to know what is real, in its meanness and its glory and to live as whole persons in the midst of our joys and our sorrows.

Robert Senghas (1928-2022) served as minister in Unitarian churches in Davis, Calif., and Wellesley Hills, Mass. He was the minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington, Vt. — the church at the head of Church Street — from 1979 to 1989, when he retired. From 1974 to 1979, Bob was the executive vice president of his denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), representing the New Hampshire-Vermont District, and served on the UUA Board Finance Committee.

4

C.Joybell C.

Our bodies have five senses: touch, smell, taste, sight, hearing. But not to be overlooked are the senses of our souls: intuition, peace, foresight, trust, empathy.

5

Rebecca Parker

You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?

Choose to bless the world.

The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will,
a moving forward into the world
with the intention to do good.

It is an act of recognition,
a confession of surprise,
a grateful acknowledgment
that in the midst of a broken world
unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.

There is an embrace of kindness
that encompasses all life, even yours.

Rebecca Ann Parker (born 1953) is an American theologian, author, and former President of Starr King School for the Ministry, the first woman to serve as the permanent head of an accredited U.S. theological school.¹ She has ordained a United Methodist minister in 1992 and held dual fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. She has worked in United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist congregations, including All Souls Unitarian in Washington DC and Wallingford United Methodist Church in Seattle, which was a pioneer in the Reconciling Congregation movement, affirming the sacred worth of all LGBTQ people. She served as President of Starr King School for the Ministry from 1990 to 2014 and is now a Professor of Theology Emerita. She has worked as the Theologian In-Residence and Minister for Adult Spiritual Development at All Souls Church in Washington, DC.

6

Winona LaDuke

Mother Earth needs us to keep our covenant...we will commit to our descendants to work hard to protect this land and water for them. Whether you have feet, wings, fins, or roots, we are all in it together.

7

Mary Oliver

I hope that you too will pause to admire the slender trunk, the leaves, the holy seeds, the ground they grow from year after year with striving and patience.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019) is often considered to be the unofficial poet laureate of Unitarian Universalists.

8

Robin Wall Kimmerer

To become naturalized is live as if your children's future matters, to take care of the land as if our lives and the lives of all our relatives depend on it. Because they do.

9

Sheri Woodbury

We are here in a circle of love and trust, brought by this moment by a series of choices and promises.

Somewhere out there, all we dream is possible. Somewhere in here, we are sowing the seeds.

Reverend Shari Woodbury (she/her) seeks to create pathways for “the transforming power of love” to work in individual lives, in congregations, and beyond; she is currently the settled minister at the First Unitarian Church of Omaha Nebraska.

10

James Crews Only Love

Only love is big enough to hold all the pain of this world Sharon Salzberg

And so I imagine the entire earth
as one beautiful heart held in the space
of this universe, inside a larger body
we can't fathom filling with enough
love to lead each of us out of the cave
of our personal pain and into the light-
enough love to lead all humans as one
out of collective fear, rage, and hate
into a place of peace that is found only
within our own hearts, beating in sync
with the pulse of this planet we were
born to inhabit, despite the daily storms
which overtake us and make us forget
we are the lifeblood pumped into these
veins, every particle of love we generate
running into rivers, lakes, and creeks,
evaporating into the air we breathe,
give back, and breathe again.

11

Kahlil Gibran

The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind.

12

Vivian Greene

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning to dance in the rain.

13

Be Strong and Do Not Betray Your Soul: Selections From the Light Work Collection

Be strong, do not Betray your soul, and carry your light to illuminate your destiny.

Rejoice, for you are a part of the mystery.

14

Helen Keller

Everything has its wonders, even the darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content.

15

David Wagoner (currently posted on UU SPiN path)

Lost?

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside

You are not lost.

Wherever you are is called Here,

And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,

Must ask permission to know it and be known.

The forest breathes. Listen. It answers.

I have made this place around you.

If you leave it,

You may come back again, saying Haere.

No two trees are the same to a Raven.

No two branches are the same to a Wren.

If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,

You are surely lost. Stand still.

The forest knows where you are.

You must let it find you.

16

May Sarton (currently posted on UU SPiN path)

Help us to be always hopeful

gardeners of the spirit

who knows without darkness

nothing comes to birth

as without light

nothing flowered.

May Sarton had a strong affinity for Unitarian Universalists, who continue to revere her work.

17

William F. Schultz (currently posted on UU SPiN path)

Come into this place of peace
and let its silence heal your spirit,
Come into this place of memory.
and let its history warm your soul;
Come into this place of prophesy
and power
and let its vision change your heart.

Reverend William F. Schulz (born 1949) is a former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Executive Director of Amnesty International, USA, and currently President Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; Affiliate Professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School; and Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard's Kennedy School for Government.

18

Folliott S. Pierpoint (currently posted on UU SPiN path)

For the beauty of the earth,

For the splendor of the shy,

For the love which our birth,

Over and around us lies:

For the joy of ear and eye,

For the heart and mind delight,

For the mystic harmony,

Linking sense to sound and sight:

For the wonder of each hour,

Of the day and of the night,

Hill and vale and tree and flower,

Sun and moon and stars of light:

Lord to all, to Thee we raise

This our hymn of grateful praise

19

Unitarian Universalist Association (currently posted on UU SPiN path)

Principles and Purposes

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

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and dignity of every person;

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 all a part.

20

Edward Everett Hale

I am only one, but I am one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by God's grace, I will do.

Edward Everett Hale (April 3, 1822 – June 10, 1909) was an American author, historian, and Unitarian minister best known for his writings such as “The Man Without a Country,” published in Atlantic Monthly, in support of the Union during the Civil War.

21

Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't a
contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019) is often considered to be the unofficial poet laureate of Unitarian Universalists.

22

Howard Zinn

The future is an infinite succession of present moments, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

23

Elizabeth Bishop

Why, why do we feel
(we all feel) this sweet
sensation of joy?

The Moose

24

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Circles

The eye is the first circle; the horizon which it forms is the second; and throughout nature this primary figure is repeated without end. It is the highest emblem of the cipher of the world.

25

Henry David Thoreau

Walking

I am alarmed when it happens that I have walked a mile into the woods bodily, without getting there in spirit.

26

Henry David Thoreau

Walden

Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.

27

Rainer Maria Rilke

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.