

It's a good thing I know this is supposed to last only 20 mins or so..... because I could go on for a long time about what motivates and inspires me here at MUUS.

I came to MUUS just after 911. I came looking for community. For myself and my children. Having attended a couple of UU services in NC with my then in-laws, I knew where I could go to find people who would share my sadness. In the shadow of that awful day, I wanted to find myself among a people whose response would be thoughtful and inclusive.

Entering MUUS that first time was of those moments I'll never forget. It was one of those times where logic falls behind and intuition comes to the fore, because I knew, right then, that I was home. I belonged, this was my place.

I know someone must have greeted me and the boys
I know someone must have handed me and order of service,
But what I remember is stepping through that threshold and knowing, just knowing I had found my home. Since then I have returned faithfully and joyfully.

I consider the act of coming to church a reminder each week, A reminder that I am on a path that requires me to pay attention to my actions and thoughts, to help me grow to be a better person. While I may not act my best self all the time, coming here each week reminds me of my commitment to myself and encourages me to keep trying. The joy of Unitarian Universalism allows me to share this path with others finding their own way, their own path, and all of us enjoying the journey.

What I love most about MUUS is our community. I often say "these are the people I want to grow up to be!", then I realize I am "grown up" and there is no magic wand to make me like someone else, so I have to ask myself those questions who do I want to be, how do I get there? And MUUS is here to help me. From committees to covenant groups to service auction items that allow me time to be, to act, to reflect, to have fun in the company of people I respect and admire.

Now that I have been at this a while, I am energized to look up and around, to say look at this great thing we have here, how do I share it with others? Religion or spirituality is not necessarily something you talk about casually with others, in my workplace where I have been for 20 years I have had only a handful of conversations about UUism. So what can I do? I can contribute my time treasure energy and talent to MUUS. To make sure it is here for my children and all the other seekers and questioners who need it.

The act of stewardship is defined as
the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

I like the thought that MUUS is entrusted to me, that I can have an important part in keeping us here, That I am worthy of the trust placed in me by all those who came before me, and that by my hard work and support that MUUS will be here long after me. Thank you for listening

Connie Cole Ingber