

Today we are celebrating Justice Sunday, honoring the historic commitment that Unitarian Universalists have had to social justice. Social Justice. Last week, Glenn Beck exhorted his followers to check their church's web site to make sure that the church did not support social justice. He said "Social justice and economic justice are code words for Communism and Nazism". That made me want to go to our web site and add a banner saying "we're for social justice – join us". But I refrained.

I came to MUUS a decade ago looking for community. I found that, in abundance. But I also found a congregation full of people committed to social justice. As individuals, we work in soup kitchens and food banks. Some mentor young men. Some advocate for reproductive rights. Some work to eliminate the death penalty. Others volunteer on political boards and commissions or volunteer for arts organizations or work for environmental organizations. The list goes on.

As a community, we have come together to support Americares Homefront with time and money. We spent many hours becoming a welcoming congregation. We supported a peacemaking resolution to be sent to the UUA. In the past year alone, as a congregation, we've made contributions to True Colors, the Susan B Anthony Project, the Denan Project, UUA/USC Guest at Your Table program, the Haiti Relief fund and the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry.

So, what does this have to do with my stewardship testimony for MUUS? Well for starters, I have spent a lot of time volunteering for various causes and I can tell you from experience that it's a lot more personally rewarding to do so in a group instead of solo. But it's more than that. This litany of social justice activities exhibits to me what kind of people are in this congregation. People who think about issues, people who are willing to spend their time and money to try to change our future and that of our children and grandchildren. These are the kind of people – you are the kind of people – who will make this a better world. And you are the people that I want to see every Sunday morning, that I want to serve with on committees. You are the faces I want to see around my dinner table. You are the ones that I want to discuss books with, to argue with, to be challenged by and to challenge. You are who I want to hang out with.

I cherish this place and all of you and can't imagine what my life would be like without it. So, it's important to me that we – you and I – support our little congregation. Without MUUS, we would probably all continue our individual activities in support of social justice and spiritual growth. But it's better when we're together.

Sam Nunn said: "You have to pay the price. You will find that everything in life exacts a price, and you will have to decide whether the price is worth the prize." I think MUUS is worth the price and I hope you do too.