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South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Freeport, NY
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As I write this, it is exactly one week since last Tuesday's terrorist attack on both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our lives have been unalterably changed, along with the shattering of the buildings, the death of the people, came the wounding of our souls.

I haven't thought about much except the events of the past week.

Many of you have called; to talk, to cry, to express anger, to try to make sense of all of this. It doesn't seem that there is much sense.

Many of you have wanted to know what to do. We have had several services here at SNUUC in which we have shared our grief. We have taken up a special collection for the American Red Cross. As I write many of us are doing what we can. On some days it may be enough to just have some hope.

It is easy to point at the acts of the terrorists and to feel that humanity is rotten at its core. But to do this, I believe, is a faithless response. It is much harder to have faith in the essential goodness of humanity. It is my faith in the basic goodness of humanity that sustains me. There are times when it takes faith just to have faith. Of course this faith is born out when I open my eyes past the tragedy and see what we are all doing for each other. The stories of generosity, hope, love, courage, and compassion multiply every day. It takes strenuous acts of inattention to miss them.

It is my sincerest prayer that we will pull through this tragedy with courage, with grace and with love. We have been doing it so far. May we be sustained in our efforts, may we be comforted in our afflictions and may we be willing to reach out our hearts and hands to those who need us.

With Love,
Richard