

Letter to UUs for Social Justice
The Rev. Barbara Wells
September 14, 2001

Dear UUSJ members,

This past Tuesday, our nation and our local community were struck a devastating blow. Many of us are personally connected with people who died or were injured and all of us are thrown off balance by the horrors we have witnessed. I was one of many clergy people who gathered with my religious community Tuesday night to mourn and rage and pray. I hope you were able to find comfort in your family, friends and community during this difficult time.

Around the region and beyond, people are stunned and struggling to come to terms with what this might mean for our future as a nation. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to do many things in the face of this terror. First, we are called to keep our hearts open. Grief is the natural response to such acts. Let us not hide our grief but allow ourselves to feel it. Grief left unspoken can be a canker on the spirit.

Second, we are called to keep our minds open. We are challenged to hear and understand what happened, and to seek a reasoned response that does not center on revenge. We may not agree on what should happen next, but we can agree that acting out of hatred and fear will only make things worse.

Finally, we are called to open our hands to those in need. There are many whose lives have been devastated by this tragedy. Whatever we can do, let us do it in love.

UUs for Social Justice in the Baltimore/Washington region is a new organization. Our resources are small. Nonetheless, I urge you to remember that whatever you do, whether through your congregation, neighborhood or workplace, you are not alone. Other UUs in our region are with you as we struggle together to understand what this will all mean.

Our organization is going forward in our work to hire a program consultant in education, to focus on our issue of public education, and to continue to bring UUs together around our region to work on social justice issues. Please keep an eye on our website, which we will work to keep updated.

Blessings and love in this difficult time.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Barbara Wells
Co-Chair, UUSJ