

## INTERN MINISTER

### Greetings from the Twitter-verse!

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As a reminder, I explore each month's Soul

Connections theme on my Twitter account (@kellieukelly) using a hashtag (#) and the month's theme (example: "#Identity"). I also would love to join your explorations of the monthly themes—simply include my Twitter handle at the beginning of your Tweet: "@kellieukelly" or post to my Facebook wall. For those of you who aren't interested or able to sign up for a Twitter account, I include some of my favorite tweets here in our newsletter.

This month, we explore #Welcome. What does it mean to be a community of #welcome?

When I think of why I am a Unitarian Universalist (UU), I think of the warm welcome that I received at all of the congregations I have visited across the United States—from Studio City, CA to Honolulu, HI to Norfolk, VA to Palatine, IL to Chicago, IL to right her at Unity Temple in Oak Park. As UUs, our warm welcome is grounded in our 7 principles and our religion's experience as the outsider and the seeker.

Whether we are a fourth generation UU or a first, Unitarian Universalism began with people leaving and seeking. Our religious ancestors were the pilgrims and before them the reformationists and before them the Christians. Our religion has a long tradition of being

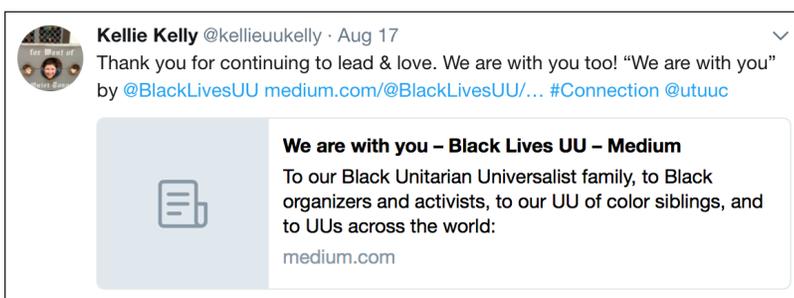
We have many Unitarian ancestors who you might already know well: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, William Emory Channing, Margaret Fuller, Theodore Parker, and Susan B. Anthony to name a few. What about Lydia Maria Child? Or Joseph Tuckerman? Do you know who Dorothea Dix was? Their hard work has made our faith more welcoming. I will be sharing their stories during my Labor Day sermon on **September 3**.

Our religious ancestors and the people who welcomed us to Unitarian Universalism call us to keep welcoming and being transformed by the "others"—the strangers, the outsiders, and the seekers. They become we and we become them.

May it be so.

With gratitude,

Kellie



the stranger.

So as we explore what it means to be a community of welcome, I am most appreciative of all those who welcomed me and our religious ancestors who worked tirelessly to make this possible. Not only did our ancestors share our faith with more of the "others," they allowed these strangers, outsiders, and seekers to share their faiths with them. They became we and we became them, both changed from the deep sharing.