**Living our faith silently**

One day last week as my friend Katie and I were in Chicago driving down Michigan Avenue we came to an intersection that was blocked and stopped completely. Horns honking, people yelling, I thought it was just regular disgruntled commuters. But then Katie saw that there were people standing out recording something with their phones. Immediately on alert I turned the car off, jumped out of the driver side and walked toward the intersection. After getting just a few steps closer another driver who was also out of their car started asking me for help.

When I came into view of what was transpiring I knew that the situation called for the witness of a person with white skin so I continued walking forward into the screaming fray of angry people all around me. Thankfully I was able to get everyone to calm down before the police arrived so that their anger and the color of their skin would not elevate the situation and I stayed, witnessing silently until the situation was resolved and the police had left.

Sometimes our faith as Unitarian Universalists calls us forward to speak up against injustice, and sometimes it calls for us to be silent witnesses who offer support to those who just need to know that there is an ally in their corner. That brief event on a street corner in Chicago reminds me of how important it is that we MUST keep doing the work, especially when it seems that society has let it fall to the wayside.

I am teaching a class for the next three weeks on Wednesday at 6:30. In this class we will use the book “Towards the Other America” (available for free download) as a reference to learn how to react to situations like I was just in, how to be both a spoken and silent witness when the situation calls for one. The time to speak up (or silent witness) is NOW… and it will continue to be necessary until there is justice, equity, and compassion for all people. Let us use this class and other community events as places to learn how to use our witness, how to stand up for justice, and how to continue marching forward until the inherent worth and dignity of EVERY person is affirmed.