

Charge / Cheer to the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society  
Offered by Reverend Carolyn Patierno on the occasion of  
Reverend Jeanne Lloyd's Installation  
April 2, 2017

*Oh Friends.*

You have waited so long for this day. Joy has gathered us all up to witness and celebrate with you.

As your neighbors up the way a piece the good Souls in New London (some of them present here today) could not be happier or more hopeful for you.

I have personally had the deep honor to spend a good amount of time among you in the 15 years that I have served All Souls. I have experienced your loving hospitality. Over the years I have gotten to know quite a few of your leaders and have found in each and every one of them a deep desire to live into Unitarian Universalism's promise.

And I have witnessed your disappointment and sadness and frustration when you have fallen short of realizing the promise.

So on this red-letter day, as you enter into formal covenant with Reverend Jeanne, this is my hope for you:

I hope that you will hold close the blessing bestowed on you this day by all of the clergy and lay leaders from sibling congregations who have made our way to be by your side today. In fact, remember that we are and will always be by your side. And imbued with this blessing, I hope that you will harness the strength of your deepest desires for this congregation and continue to change Shoreline UU Society's narrative. This new chapter is your own to create, to do with what you have long dreamed and hoped for.

Dearly Beloved: go for it.

Here's a little known fact about me: I was for one year in high school a cheerleader. My charge is less a charge than a cheer. Here goes:

*Push it back, push it back waaaaaay back.*

Push back every crummy, not helpful habit that tripped you up in the past. You have done such good work, a lot of it on your own. Be vigilant. Stay the path. Push back, let go of every habit that will not serve the dream.

*B-e A-g-g-r-e-s-s-i-v-e!*

Be aggressive. Be aggressive as you pursue the dream of a healthy, strong, vibrant, loving, justice-seeking, spiritually grounded congregation. Our movement, our neighborhoods, our *country, THE WORLD*, needs your still, strong voice. And we need you to get to it, *now*.

We are bestowing upon you every blessing and hope that this new chapter will be as lovely as this most glorious day.

We're cheering you on as you create your *new, glorious day*.

*Go, SUUS. Go!*

Amen.