

This reading was given at the Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving at Plymouth Congregational Church on November 24, 2011.

A Reading from the Unitarian Universalist Tradition

by Max Coots

Let us give thanks for a bounty of friends.

For generous friends...with hearts as big as hubbards

and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn;

For plain friends, who, like potatoes, are so good for you;

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes;

For serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time;

For young friends, growing as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;

For this bounty of friends we give thanks.