

# MINISTER'S COLUMN

## Election Fears

During this time of the pandemic I try to keep my ear to the ground for the tender spots in members' lives. Where have there been job losses? Who has health worries? Who is lonely? I see pockets of challenges, and, too, I see the beauty of a caring community rising to meet needs during these times of unforeseen stress.



As I listen, one topic of worry which prevails is the upcoming election. Across the community I hear: Will we be able to vote? Will our votes be counted? Will the results be honored? Is there hope we can solve issues in a polarized country?

The stress around the election feels broad and, frankly, well-founded.

While our shaken confidence in the post office feels recent, our waning trust in the democratic process is not new. Four years ago I wrote a sermon about democracy (and religion) which began, "Do you trust democracy? In your bones, do you trust it? Do you trust yourself and your fellow citizens?" It was the summer of 2016 and there was a profound angst about democracy in the air then.

I was reminded of this sermon when it was selected in early 2020 for publication in the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's monthly magazine, *Quest*. When I asked if the sermon still seemed relevant, the editors reassured me that my message linking democracy to our UU principles had value four years later.

The sermon is a reminder that democracy beats other governing alternatives, and that in order to survive democracy needs citizens to engage. (Click this link for that Sermon) <https://www.questformeaning.org/quest-article/the-heart-of-democracy/>

I repost this sermon in hopes that each of us will take the time to name what we value most about democracy, and then to use those values as an incentive to engage with heart and soul in the election before us. Our faith calls us to do so.

*Rev. Sue*