

## **The Sermon Archive and Summer Speakers: A “Matters of Our Lives” Address , delivered March 24, 2023 by Preston Wilson**

Religious explanation of any faith can be expressed very simply [*point to banner*], yet still requires more than a few words for deeper understanding. We seem to need clarification and affirmation that the truths our faith embraces are worth more than all our doubting and searching . Franz Kafka said of books, “ A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us.” The same can be said for a sermon. Yet while a book is a physical object, a sermon’s content is, sadly, often ephemeral. How many times have we listened to a sermon and afterward wished we had a copy in print so we could contemplate at our leisure the speaker’s thoughts and feelings that we were unable to fully appreciate upon hearing them that one time?

Granted, through our excellent technology team, we can see and hear the entire service again on YouTube, including the sermon. But now, as a supplement to, and not a replacement for, our YouTube site, Michelle Waffner and I are continuing to build a permanent text-based library of sermons. We have at present more than fifty sermons arranged in chronological order from newest to oldest that are ready for your perusal. Simply go to FUSIT’s main web page at [uuthaca.org](http://uuthaca.org) and scroll down to “Service Archive, then to “Sermon Transcripts.” In this site there will also be a subheading for “Matters of Our Lives.”

Many of the sermons in this archive were delivered in the summer months during which we hold less formal services in the parlor Sunday mornings that feature the sermon followed by respectful discussion. I am now recruiting speakers for this coming summer’s services running until the start of regular services in September. Please contact me about details and a placement. Our UU theology,

though codified in official form, is more personally conceived in the sum total of all our thoughts, feelings, and actions that we elect to share with each other. When all is said and done, we are all each other's guides to the various truths that we seek within our multi-faith, lay-led community of friends. If you volunteer to give a summer sermon, you will not be video recorded, but your words, if you approve, will find a home in our growing text archive. For inspiration, please visit the archive at [uithaca.org](http://uithaca.org) and know that what you think and believe is very important to the members of this Society. I believe you will be impressed by the range and depth of the topics explored. Simply put, your admiration for the loving power of this Society will grow.

Would you like to reach out to others through the spoken and written word? If you do decide to give a sermon, I can assure you that you'll find kind and attentive listeners who will be very appreciative of your sharing your good thoughts with them. Thank you.

Preston Wilson