



Letter from the minister for May 2026

Tats R Us!

By Rev. Amy Kindred

In years past, many in society looked down on the sailor, the rebel and especially, the woman who sported a permanent tattoo. It is not so today.

Even though dissatisfaction is prevalent of late concerning a number of issues in much of the US, one positive fact is that people are more open-minded when it comes to individuals with one or more tattoos. It is estimated that 32% of all US adults now have at least one tattoo whereas two decades ago, it was just 16% of the US population. (expertbeacon.com/how-many-people-have-tattoos/)

Even though some may disagree that tattoos are to be celebrated, the latest figures reflect growing acceptance toward individual self-expression and body positivity. A tattoo might be surface design that has no meaning other than for aesthetic reasons but more often than not, there is a story or a “why” behind a person’s tattoo. For example, for people with visible differences, layering a tattoo over an awkward birthmark or a surgical scar helps one to reclaim parts of their body they would otherwise hide. This is a powerful opportunity to regain confidence and joy.

And consider the photo I included with this article. It is a picture of a tattoo I got during the days of Covid, an extremely painful period. The tattoo is of a blossom and a thistle. It covers a scar on my hand that I got a few years ago mountain biking. I also chose it as a reminder for me that life is filled with beauty as well as prickly challenges and heartaches.

Your body does not have to be decorated to be worthy. However, if you choose to adorn yourself with ink just know you are loved for who you are, however you are. Unitarian Universalists celebrate diversity of all forms.

Join us at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater when we will explore more during the Sunday service titled, “Tats R Us.”