

# **Women, the Image of God and the Universalist Hope**

**Rev. Scott Wells  
Washington, D.C.**

- **Stay or you can leave without judgment.**
- **Questions welcomed, but may need to be parked.**
- **Materials to be shared.**
- **Name, home and three words.**

- **Universalism, 1820 – 1920**
- **Step away from the “Great Woman” theory of history (somewhat)**
- **Anecdotal, based on my reading**
- **Practical: for the present and future**

**When a female steps without the  
line which custom hath  
circumscribed, she naturally  
becomes an object of  
speculation....**

**Judith Sargent Murray  
1782**

- **Writing and editing, especially for the commercial press**
- **Missionary work**
- **Political campaigning and speaking**
- **Fund-raising**
- **Scholarship**

# *Can a woman forget her sucking child?*

- **Sermon text**
- **Proof text**
- **Later, conversation starter**

- **Personal images of God focused on relationships**
- **Particular emphasis on parental role**
- **Transgression (and restoration) against parent, not civil judge**
- **Openness both to radical trends and moderate evangelicalism.**

# Many Born-Again Christians Hold Universalist Views, Barna Finds

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By [Jennifer Riley](#), Christian Post Reporter

April 18, 2011 | 6:08 pm

One in four born-again Christians hold universalist thoughts when it comes to salvation, according to a new Barna analysis of trend data.

Twenty-five percent of born-again Christians said all people are eventually saved or accepted by God. A similar proportion, 26 percent, said a person's religion does not matter because all faiths teach the same lessons.

And an even higher proportion, 40 percent, of born-again Christians said they believe Christians and Muslims [worship](#) the same God.

Barna defined universalism as the belief that all human beings will eventually be saved after death. The [California](#)-based research and polling firm defines born-again Christians as people who have made "a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today, and who believe they will go to heaven after death because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior.

According to the Barna analysis, 43 percent of







CAROLINE A. SOULE.

**Temperance, freedom, justice to  
the negro, justice to women, are  
but parts of one great whole one  
mighty temple whose builder and  
maker is God....**

**Frances Dana Gage**



Yours cordially  
Phebe A. Hanaford

*Cast your bread upon the waters,  
Do not think it thrown away;  
God has said that you shall gather  
It again some future day.*



*Cast your bread upon the waters.  
Wildly though the billows roll,  
They will help your work to  
prosper,  
Truth to spread from pole to pole.*

*Cast your bread upon the waters;  
Why do you still doubting stand?  
Bounteous God will send the  
harvest  
If you sow with liberal hand.*

*Give then freely of your substance,  
O'er this purpose God shall reign;  
Cast your bread and work with  
patience.  
You will labor not in vain.*

Phebe Coffin Hanaford  
c. 1852



- **Encourage girls to be independent inquirers and learners.**
- **Write and speak more; read and listen to more independent sources.**
- **Theology as a generalist endeavor, including the political.**
- **Cooperate ecumenically**

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will be available for download and  
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