

Chalice Groups

A discipline that offers a lot. It builds community; it affirms friendships and offers deep possibilities
Reverend James Ford

The Chalice Group program provides a path through deep listening and deep thinking in which people may explore and speak to the deeper questions of life. To paraphrase Henry David Thoreau, it can add a broader margin to your life.

To paraphrase Unitarian Universalists who have participated in these small group experiences, not only are the topics stimulating and thought provoking but the groups have:

“given me a great sense of belonging to a community”

“helped me build personal relationships”

“meant fellowship and insight to me”

“provided a chance to stop, breathe, and focus on questions and topics that allow for personal and spiritual growth”

On January 10th we launched six chalice groups here at our church. Currently over sixty members and friends of this church community are meeting twice a month over 16 weeks. In these groups they will enjoy sharing their life stories and their thoughts and ideas with each other.

The time that the group members spend together offers an opportunity to listen attentively to another's ideas and in turn to have others listen attentively to their perspective. Each group at their initial meeting developed an agreement or covenant for how they will interact with each other in order to create a comfortable and safe environment in which to share their diverse thoughts, ideas and feelings.

The groups have selected their topics -- usually from an extensive list provided by the Unitarian Universalist Small Group program. Some examples are: Living Simply, Forgiveness, Service, Mentors, The Road Not Taken, Solitude: A Gift For Ourselves, Retrospective, It Matters What We Believe, and Faith.

The current groups are scheduled to continue through mid-May at which time some groups will be welcoming new members and new groups will also be forming for the summer. For additional information feel free to contact one of the Chalice Group co-facilitators.

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