

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan JULY
Finding Balance in the Complex: Pride & Patriotism, Unity & the Universal

May your time together be meaningful and full of warm connection! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS: *IT IS GOOD TO BE TOGETHER*

With thankful hearts we have come together to celebrate the bounty of the day, to bask in the warmth of this community, to share with friends the tides of our lives, to entertain, perennially, our hopes for a better future.

We join together to resist injustice and inequality, wherever they may be found.

Our hearts are touched by the human need we feel around us, whether far away or within reach of our hand.

We come here, to be together, because this is how we believe our lives are best lived: in questioning and in conversation, in compassion and in service, in gratitude and in joy, in companionship, and in love.

It is good to be together.

CHECK-IN

READINGS

We dare not forget that we are the heirs of that first revolution. ~John F. Kennedy

Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong. ~James Bryce

“That most religious act imaginable: loving ourselves, loving our family, our church, our community, our country, this world.” – Pam Wat, UU minister

To me, it seems a dreadful indignity to have a soul controlled by geography. ~George Santayana

America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

You cannot spill a drop of American blood without spilling the blood of the whole world.... We are not a nation, so much as a world. ~Herman Melville

What do I believe? As an American I believe in generosity, in liberty, in the rights of man. These are social and political faiths that are part of me, as they are, I suppose, part of all of us. Such beliefs are easy to express. But part of me too is my relation to all life, my religion. And this is not so easy to talk about. Religious experience is highly intimate and, for me, ready words are not at hand. ~Adlai Stevenson

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. What spoke to you from the readings?
2. Do any of the readings connect to your understanding of your faith or being UU?
3. Where is the sacred in your understanding of community, tribe, nation, world..?
4. What wisdom comes from nationhood and what dangers?
6. What would you like the children of this congregation, our faith tradition and our community to know and understand about pride of, engagement with and/or activism against/within our country?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS

And now, may we have faith in life to do wise planting that the generations to come may reap even more abundantly than we. May we be bold to bringing to fruition the golden dreams of human kinship and justice. Thus we ask that fields of promise become fields of reality.
- V. Emil Gudmundson

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE