

WHEN ARE THE CHALICE CIRCLES STARTING?

Our *Chalice Circle* Program will begin in November 2019. You are asked to commit to participating either in a seasonal circle that meets November through April or a year-long circle. The initial three meetings will be every two weeks.

We have a special challenge because so many folks here at UUCOD are seasonal. We will be open to creative ways to keep the connections made in the groups through the year.

Questions?

Come to an information session

or

email Rev.Barbara at uurevbarbara@gmail.com

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? WHAT KINDS OF GROUPS ARE THERE?

You get involved by signing up to be in a group. You can choose the group you want to be in. There may be a group in your neighborhood or one that meets in the afternoon, or on a certain day of the week. You may want to be in an “affinity group”: a group of folks with whom you have something in common. We have a request for a senior senior’s group. You may want to be in partners group, or a men’s or a woman’s group or another? We will try to honor your requests.

How to Sign up?

email the office at Admin@UUCOD.org

Subject : Chalice Circles
And indicate preferences...or

Sign up in the foyer

CHALICE CIRCLE SHARED MINISTRY PROGRAM

2019-20

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF THE
DESERT

*Facilitating Spiritual Growth
through personal connections*

WHY CHALICE CIRCLES?

The simple answer is that you have asked for them. Another answer is that we have learned and we believe that it is through the small group process we come to know ourselves and each other more fully and to feel we truly “belong”.

Through this small group process we are invited to share in the wholeness of this community.

THE FORMAT OF A CHALICE CIRCLE:

Each session will follow the same format

- Opening Words & Chalice Lighting
- Brief Silence & Reflection
- Personal Check – In
- Introducing the Topic & Readings (members share the readings)
- Questions to inspire Personal Sharing
- Personal Sharing on Topic
- Brief Check-Out
- Closing Words & Chalice Out
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WHAT WILL THE TOPICS BE? The topics are “big”.

Topics may include belonging, trust, hope, dying, forgiveness, joy, humor, loss.

The topic for every group will be the same.

The format of the group process will be the same.

WHAT DEFINES A GROUP?

Each group will have about 8-10 people, including the facilitator. They agree to meet once a month at a regularly scheduled time and place, either at UUCOD or someone’s home. They agree to adopt and follow a “covenant” which is a promise we make to each other on how we will listen to and treat each other in the group. Each session is two hours. The “content” is provided by Rev. Barbara and is the same for all groups. The format is similar to the one used in “Building Your Own Theology” and allows for group bonding and in-depth personal reflection as the topics are explored. Each group sets an extra chair in the circle to symbolize that newcomers are welcome.

THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR To *facilitate is to make easy*. A facilitator helps make the success of the group easy. Facilitators are there to make sure the group begins and ends on time. They send out the programming, lead the session plan, guide the discussion as needed, observe the group energy. They may contact someone who missed a meeting to let them know they are missed.

Facilitators are given some training in facilitation and are supported monthly by Rev. Barbara.

Facilitators are full members of the group. With the help of other group members, they ensure the group Covenant is affirmed in order to maintain a safe environment. The Covenant, the Facilitator and the Group are charged with “holding the space” so that each participant is invited to feel welcome, safe, heard, and respected as they are, and *that what is said in the group stays in the group*.

Facilitators are not therapists, and they do not need advanced degrees. Common sense, a gentle guiding hand, and a sense of healthy boundaries are the strongest qualifications. Facilitators maintain the connection of the circle group with the Chalice Circle Program by meeting with Rev. Barbara Fast once a month. They may, with appropriate permission alert the minister to situations where a minister’s presence or attention may be needed.

Covenant

I will make a sincere effort to attend all sessions.

I will notify the facilitator if I have to be absent.

I will be considerate of my fellow members by arriving, starting and ending on time.

I will respect the confidentiality of the group.

I will speak from personal experience using “I” language, and refrain from giving advice.

I will participate and also self-moderate, so that others may speak.

I will honor the desire of anyone to “pass”.

I will be responsible for keeping the discussion ‘on track’.

I will strive to listen fully. I will do my best with the participation of all, to ensure the Covenant is followed in order to maintain a safe environment.