

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Time—November 2012</b> <b>UUFVB Covenant Groups</b></p>
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**Chalice Lighting**

May we know once again that we are not isolated beings,  
but connected, in mystery and miracle,  
to the universe, to this community and to each other.

**Check-in: How is your spirit right now?**

**Opening Reading**

We get to think of life as an inexhaustible well. Yet everything happens only a certain number of times, and in a very small number, really. How many more times will you remember a certain afternoon of your childhood, some afternoon that's so deeply a part of your being that you can't even conceive of your life without it? Perhaps four or five times more, perhaps not even that. How many more times will you watch the full moon rise? Perhaps twenty. And yet it all seems limitless. (*Paul Bowles*)

Time and tide wait for no man. A pompous and self-satisfied proverb, and was true for a billion years; but in our day of electric wires and water-ballast we turn it around: Man waits not for time nor tide. (*Mark Twain*)

Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived. (*Captain Jean-Luc Picard in the film "Star Trek: Generations"*)

**Topic Exploration**

This topic is all about time and the recognition of what the various segments of time we measure could mean to you and perhaps have meant to you at certain points in your life. Time is measured off with clock hours, weekly days and calendar months and years, all which pale in comparison to galactic time and the time for evolution to take place.

**Questions/Sharing**

1. Can you recall when one measure of time became extraordinarily important to you, such as a few seconds, minutes or hours that changed your life?
2. What is the value to you in sharing time with friends or loved ones?
3. How has your perception of time changed as you progressed from childhood to today? How has your changed perception of time affected how you now allocate your time?
4. Do you guard your time more or less than you did at some point in the past?

5. Religions often teach the value of living in the moment; a fiery, robust theology charges us to live fully in the present moment, being utterly accountable in the now, the only moment we truly possess. Owen-Towle contends that the purpose of life is to *redeem* time. “Lots of people save and fill time; our mission is to savor and fulfill time,” he says. “In filling time, we’re prone to self-absorption. In fulfilling time, we serve purposes beyond our own egos, meanings that outlast our lives.” Discuss

### **Check-out and reflection on today’s session**

#### **Closing reading**

##### The value of Time

To realize the value of ten years:

Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:

Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:

Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months:

Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month:

Ask the mother of a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:

Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute:

Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second:

Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.

Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when  
you can share it with someone special.

##### Extinguish the Chalice

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,  
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

#### **Housekeeping**