

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach
Covenant Groups
Curiosity

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: What is most on your mind today?

Opening Reading:

Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with *curiosity*, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge. In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll

Topic Exploration:

Curiosity is having a strong desire to know or learn something. It is a key ingredient of learning and acquiring knowledge. Many people who exercise their curiosity don't need the information they look for, but may seek information and answers to their questions simply for the sake of gaining knowledge. There are those whose curiosity leads them to take on new challenges and experiences to broaden their horizons. This search for answers can lead to an increased ability to make connections and consolidate information.

"Curiosity had often lured me to the edge of ruin. For years, I had known that there is nothing idle about curiosity, despite the fact that the two words are often used in tandem. Curiosity fidgets, is hard to satisfy, looks for answers even before forming questions. Curiosity wants to behold, to comprehend, maybe even to become."

Maya Angelou, A Song Flung Up To Heaven

"I think I benefited from being equal parts ambitious and curious. And of the two, curiosity has served me best."

Michael J Fox – Canadian-American actor, film producer, activist

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.

Albert Einstein, "Old Man's Advice to Youth: 'Never Lose a Holy Curiosity.'" LIFE Magazine (1955)

Questions/Sharing:

1. *"We covenant to affirm and promote: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning."*
In what ways does this fourth UU principle compel us to exercise our curiosity?
2. How do you know when you're talking to a curious person? What traits does that person exhibit? Are you such a person?
3. What kinds of things are you personally curious about? Do you regularly seek answers or information about your curiosities? If so, where do you search?
4. Like Alice, has your curiosity ever led you down the proverbial rabbit-hole to an unexpected adventure or realization?
5. In the Maya Angelou quote above, she says, "Curiosity had often lured me to the edge of ruin." Can you identify with her statement? How so?
6. In what ways did your family encourage your innate childhood curiosity? In what ways have you promoted curiosity in others?

Closing Reading:

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Check-out and reflections on today's session: Please express any closing thoughts on the content or process of today's session.

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

UUFVB covenant groups program/p.a.