

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach
Covenant Groups
Possibility
September, 2022

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 Readings:

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

*Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013, antiapartheid
revolutionary and President of South Africa*

Wave of sorrow
Do not drown me now

I see the island
Still ahead somehow

I see the island
And its sands are fair

Wave of sorrow
Take me there

Islands, by Langston Hughes, 1901-1967, poet and activist, leader of the Harlem Renaissance

Topic Exploration:

“All things are possible” has been said many times in response to all kinds of situations. It’s almost a cliché. Yes, it’s possible that you will win the lottery today—though somehow you must procure a ticket and then not lose it. The jury is out on whether it was Pablo Picasso, 20th Century avant garde artist and bon vivant, or Vincent Van Gogh, the one-eared 19th Century post-impressionist genius who said,

“I am always doing things I can’t do. That’s how I get to do them.”

Regardless, the implication is that embracing the possible is an active process, the opposite of letting fate have its way with you. A person must participate in some way to have sway in which of life’s infinite possibilities becomes their reality. The bare idea of possibility can be a comfort if it’s accompanied by a belief that there is an accessible way out of a difficult situation, be it grief, bankruptcy, or indigestion.

The idea can also be a curse, if someone believes sincerely that a rogue meteorite is barreling toward earth with their name on it. A possibility, yes, but highly improbable. Possibility for the most part elicits a positive connotation. Latching on to a particular possibility can offer the gift of hope- and it accepts the premise that there will be a future. Challenging times, be they personal, planetary, or existential, call loudest for solutions. It is possible, if we as humans pause, think, and do whatever work is called for, things will get better. Definitely, there is that possibility.

Questions/Sharing:

1. When you were growing up, did your family pass on to you more possibles or impossibles? What were some of them? How did that tendency affect your adult self?
2. During a lifespan every human faces challenges that can seem too complicated or too awful to handle. When challenged in your life, what things or steps allowed you to persevere?
3. When you think about the 6th UU principle—the goal of peace, liberty, and justice for all—on a day-to-day basis, are you able to contribute to that possibility? In what way? Does it get exhausting? Can it be uplifting?
4. When you were 10 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up? Of all the possibilities you had before you, did you ever think you'd be where you are today?
5. In your experience is possibility more a plodding or a dance? If it's a dance, right now, what music would you set it to?

Closing Reading:

Man often becomes what he believes himself to be. If I keep saying to myself that I cannot do a certain thing, it is possible that I may end by really becoming incapable of doing it. On the contrary, if I have the belief I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have had it at the beginning.

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist, b. 1869, assassinated January 30, 1948

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

Extinguishing 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/k.w.