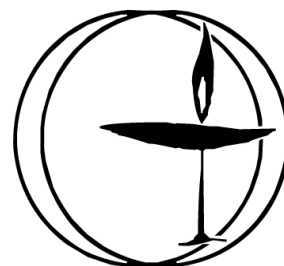


Chalice Circle March 2024



Meanderingly - following a winding course or wandering without definite aim or direction

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

Igniting This Precious Light - Vanessa Titang

In igniting this chalice,
we cast upon it our hopes and intentions
for all that is positive
in our minds, and in our hearts.
May this precious light shine on.

Song/Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sg-F6XonykM>

Reading 1

Be soft in your practice. Think of the method as a fine silvery stream, not a raging waterfall. Follow the stream, have faith in its course. It will go on its own way, meandering here, trickling there. It will find the grooves, the cracks, the crevices. Just follow it. Never let it out of your sight. It will take you.
— Sheng Yen

Check-in: Without crosstalk or interruption, briefly describe where you are in your life now, and notice what needs to be shared to be fully present in our circle.

Reading 2

He who sits still in a house all the time may be the greatest vagrant of all; but the saunterer, in the good sense, is no more a vagrant than the meandering river, which is all the while sedulously seeking the shortest course to the sea. — Henry David Thoreau

Questions to Consider

1. How/when does our culture encourage us to slow down and meander?
2. What do we miss when we rush and take the shortest route?
3. Describe a time you meandered. What did you experience/see/learn that you would have otherwise missed?
4. What do you enjoy most about your favorite meandering activity(s)?
5. Other thoughts about meandering?

Sitting in Silence: We will sit in silence for 3-5 minutes. Take this time to reflect on the readings, questions, and theme. Center yourself and consider what you want to share with the group.

Sharing/Deep Listening: Please listen attentively to others then share your own experiences and thoughts on the topic/readings without crosstalk or interruption.

Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk: After listening to others, what questions or additional thoughts do you want to share?

Reading 3

Meandering leads to perfection. — Lao Tzu

Checkout: What is one thing you're taking with you from tonight's discussion? How can your fellow circle members support you until we meet again?

Walking the Crooked Path (*excerpt*) - Thomas Rhodes

Lead us this day on a crooked path.
For so often we are in so much of a hurry
Taking the direct route to our goal,
But we can see that no river takes a direct path to the sea.
Trees and bushes sprout crooked limbs,
And birds, beasts and insects meander in their search
for food, shelter, or a mate.

We lose so much when we take the direct route –
The interstate which bypasses the quaint township,
The chance to stop and say hello, and how are you,
And really listen to the reply.

So lead us on the crooked path
Past wandering streams and crooked trees,
Following our hearts' desire, Not just duty's demands,
For the crooked path also leads us home.

"Wonderful Life" (Lyrics)

Take a look around
And see the world we think we know
Then look closer
There's more to life than meets the eye
A beauty to behold
It's all much bigger than we know
It's only just beginning to unfold
So let it all unfold

[Chorus]

Far beyond all reason in your mind
There's a world mysterious
There for you to find
All these questions
That we always have
All we are is curious
There's nothing wrong with that
So go 'round every corner
Search every part of the sky
'Cause a life that's full of wonder
Is a wonderful life

Dig beneath the surface
Find the lessons there to learn
And then dig deeper
Feed your intuition
Don't leave any stone unturned
Be the seeker of the truth
Listen when you hear it calling you
You know it's calling you

(repeat Chorus)