

February 2025 Chalice Circle OOS



Giving and Receiving

Theme: Care for Each Other—UU Value: Generosity

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18) (New International Version)

Opening Song: #402 From You I Receive

<https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA?si=fsmQ2eQVwMMOpmQW>

“From you I receive,
to you I give,
together we share,
and from this we live.”

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

Reading 1:

Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone’s life. Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance. – Roy T. Bennett

Reading 2:

Gracious acceptance is an art—an art which most never bother to cultivate. We think that we have to learn how to give, but we forget about accepting things, which can be much harder than giving....
Accepting another person's gift is allowing that person to express feelings for you.
– Alexander McCall Smith

Reading 3:

Giving to others selflessly and anonymously, radiating light throughout the world and illuminating your own darkness, your virtue becomes a sanctuary for yourself and all beings. Laozi

Reading 4:

If nature has made you a giver, your hands are born open, and so is your heart; and though there may be times when your hands are empty, your heart is always full, and you can give things out of that—warm things, kind things, sweet things—help and comfort and laughter—and sometimes gay, kind laughter is the best help of all. – Frances Hodgson Burnett

Questions to Consider:

1. Many find it easier to give than receive. What do each mean to you? What are your feelings about each?
2. What messages did you receive from the adults in your family or others close to you about the concepts of giving and receiving? What behaviors were modeled?
3. What are your thoughts about giving to charitable organizations or your church community? Is it important, easy to do, an obligation difficult to do?

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 share your own experiences and thoughts about the topic and readings with no crosstalk or interruption. Please ensure everyone gets an equal opportunity to share.

Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk:

As time allows, after listening to others, do you have additional thoughts to share?

Checkout:

What are you taking with you as you leave the circle? How can we support you in the month ahead?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

– Kahlil Gibran