

Milestones Circle: Sharing Our Lives Now

28 June 2026 Topic: Brainstorming for the 26-27 Church Year

A covenant is a list of the ways the group agrees to be together. The idea is central to Unitarian Universalism. In our Milestones Circle we agree to engage each other in a covenantal relationship. We commit to honoring a purpose, method and format for our group meetings so that we can find meaning and connection. It is the means by which the community is held together. Therefore, we will read and reread our Covenant Statement (below) once every few months in order to remind ourselves of our promises.

Milestones Circle Purpose: The Milestones Circle is an open, drop-in small group for older adults to meet, share thoughts and concerns on a prearranged topic, and receive support and friendship in a UU setting.

Our Milestones Circle Covenant Statement: (as adopted October 26, 2025)

1. We will use “I” statements when speaking and avoid interrupting others while they are speaking. (Crosstalk will only be permitted during the Open Discussion portion of the meeting)
2. What we say in this Circle will be held in confidence so that we all will feel free to share our truth openly.
3. We will listen with compassion and empathy because we understand that all human beings are fallible and need the kindness offered in friendship.
4. We acknowledge the right to pass or not share, when that feels appropriate.
5. We will speak for ourselves and respectfully listen to others during sharing time. (This is not the time for giving advice.)
6. We will monitor the length of our speaking to ensure there is sufficient time for all to share.
7. We will fully and gladly welcome new members to the group.
8. Between meetings, we will keep each other in our thoughts and hearts, reaching out to each other as needed in tangible ways to ensure that we are a caring community for one another.

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:

This is a Circle of reflection and contemplation, of joy and sorrow, friendship, sharing and laughter.

We light this chalice in honor of the life we share and in the hope of what we are for each other.

Song: Singing with You is My Prayer

Singing, singing with you, singing with you is my prayer.

(In place of the word “singing” substitute the word: talking...walking...laughing...being)

Potluck Lunch *(You will notice that we have a Poster made available for new topics for next year. Please feel free to add more than one of your ideas for topics during our mealtime.)*

Quick Clean-up after which we will sit together in our Circle

Reading: First Comes the Waiting

This is the season of endings and beginnings,
when the small signs of dawn pierce through the night and something new is born.

But first comes the waiting.
First come the lessons of endings and beginnings.

The Presence of Life, the sheltering Spirit of Love,
grieves with those sweeping up the debris of loss;
waits with those who restlessly reach out for change;
grants us courage in the night to guard each other's dreams for this holy, wondrous universe.

Grant us, oh Universe unfolding in mystery, a sense of your timing.

May we loosen our grip on that which doesn't serve us,
leaving behind that which we have outworn and outgrown.

Teach us the lessons of beginnings.
Remind us that such waitings and endings may be a starting place,
a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born –
something right and just and different;
a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love –
in the fullness of time.

~~By Erika Hewitt

Check In: Please briefly state how you are doing now.

Sharing/Listening round our Circle. In no particular order, if you have thoughts or a response to what has been shared, this is the time to express it.

Check Out: You are now invited to add a last word or to make a request of the Circle friends for tangible care from one another.

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice:

Carry this light with you—
not in your hands, but in your heart,
In your words,
in your meetings,
in your willingness to share your life.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, July 26, 2026
Topic: TBA - Our New Year Begins