**November 2026 Chalice Circle**
**"Golden Hour in Your Own Backyard"**
**Themes: Home, Belonging**

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting**
Whether you are from the South, the East, the North, or the West . . .
Whether you were born into this faith, found it, or it found you . . .
Whether you feel at home, or are still trying to find your place . . .
We have a place for you. It is right here.
And this chalice is lit for you. *(from UUA.org)*

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

**Song:** Phillip Phillips - Home - YouTube

**Reading 1:** Someone asks where you're from, and you hesitate. It's a simple question. But if you've moved enough times, lived in enough places, become enough different versions of yourself, the question can stop having a clear answer. Do they mean where I was born? Where I grew up? Where I live now? Where I feel most like myself, which is none of those places and also, somehow, several of them at once? - *from "What is Home? The Psychology of Belonging, Place, and Where we Feel Most Ourselves," by Dr. Katie Blake, PhD*

**Reading 2:** This is the bright home in which I live,
this is where I ask my friends to come,
this is where I want to love all the things
it has taken my so long
to learn to love.

This is the temple of my adult aloneness
and I belong to that aloneness
as I belong to my life.

There is no house
like the house of belonging. - *"The House of Belonging," by David Whyte*

**Reading 3:** Researchers studying refugees and forcibly displaced people have documented something remarkable - over time, many displaced people are able to reconstruct home. Not by replacing or replicating what was lost, but by building something new from what is available to them, while still carrying the memory of what was taken. What distinguishes the people who manage this from those who can't is the capacity to identify what home had actually given them - the psychological functions it served - and then to find ways of meeting those same needs under entirely new conditions. Safety. Continuity. Belonging. Familiarity. Not the place itself, but the things the place had provided. - *from "What is Home? The Psychology of Belonging, Place, and Where we Feel Most Ourselves," by Dr. Katie Blake, PhD*

**Questions to Consider:**
1) What does "home" mean to you? Is it a specific place, a person, a time of your life?
2) How can we as individuals and as UUs be a home for others?

3) When do you feel most at home?
4) Have your earliest experiences of home influenced who you are today?

**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 any of the topics, questions, 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? OR How can we support you in the month ahead?

**Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice:**

"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned. " - *Maya Angelou*