

**MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH**  
**Small Group Ministry**  
Session #193: Thankfulness

**Opening words and chalice lighting:**

The clouds that gather round the setting sun  
Do take a sober coloring from an eye  
That hath kept watch o'er man's mortality;  
Another race hath been, and other palms are won.  
Thanks to the human heart by which we live,  
Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,  
To me the meanest flower that blows can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.  
~ *Wordsworth*

**Check In:** *What is on your mind today?*

**Focus Reading:**

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits." Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a long hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides a burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things... and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other faults and choosing to celebrate each other differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. So...please pass me a biscuit. And yes, the burned one will do just fine!

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.  
~ *Hershey's Mill Digest*

**Focus Questions:**

1. "What small thing are you thankful for today?"
2. Do we remember to be thankful for the big things but forget the small things? How do you express your thankfulness on a daily basis?
3. It is easy to be superficial in our thanking someone. What steps do you take to avoid this?
4. Can you be thankful to even those people who have mistreated you? How?

**Checkout Likes and Wishes:** *Will you carry something forward from this session?*

**Closing Words and Extinguishing Chalice:**

Stop thinking of gratitude as a by-product of your circumstances and start thinking of it as a worldview.

~ *Bryan Robles*