

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network CGN August, 2010

Show and Tell

by Claude VanderVeen, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I want to share with Covenant Group News readers, a type of "show and tell" sharing sessions we've been using in Milwaukee and some special activities we've been having in the summer.

Light Chalice, Sound Bell

Check In

Reading: HYMN 346 Come Sing A song With Me

Introduction: This song talks of sharing from our core, "that I might know your mind." Please bring in an object of art (e.g. pottery, painting, photograph, fiber art) that you have created, seen, purchased, that moves you deeply. Share the story of your first encounter with this work. Tell us why it moves you deeply. May we ask you questions about the work?

Check Out

Closing thought: "I'll show you mine, if you show me yours..."

Other possibilities:

Share a favorite poem.

Share your most beloved music.

Share stories of your favorite vacation.

Bring in pictures of you from your earliest years to present, in chronological order. Share some stories of these pictures/times.

During the church year, most of our topics are "serious," and during the summer, the meetings tend to be more "for fun." We have had movie nights, where we share a favorite movie, some popcorn, and discuss the movie. We've seen: King Of Hearts; Danny Darko; Gran Torino; Star Trek episodes, others. These meetings tend to be less cerebral, more showing our hearts, and help our group "gel."

Editor's Note: Claude is describing some "add on" sessions that his group uses in the summertime. In our Baton Rouge program, I've coached leaders to avoid doing films instead of meetings. However, as extra sessions or for use over the summer if your group normally takes the summer off, they can be within your model and enhance the group. Recently some of our leaders reported "add on's" that they've done in addition to the monthly meetings. What is your experience with "add on's?" Send me your stories Diana_dorroh@hotmail.com.