

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

Evil in the World

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware, by Rev. Michelle Collins, 2013

Chalice Lighting, by Author

We light our chalice as a reminder that, in the face of improbable odds,
Life's ember burns and glows.

A corner of warmth and awareness amidst the coldness of space and the indifference of time.

Check In

Reading: author unknown

There's a Cherokee tale that goes like this:

One evening a man told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Discussion & Sharing Questions:

- How often do you think about evil in the world?
- What is the potential for evil in each of us? Have you found this potential in someone who is close to you or in yourself?
- How often do you use the label of "evil" about someone or something? What sorts of things are you using it for? Would others use "evil" to talk about those things too?
- How do we make sense of these things/actions/people that we name as some sort of evil?
- How do we, as individuals and as a culture, continue to try and live happy, productive lives in the presence of evil? What does it take to try?

Closing Thoughts

Extinguishing the Chalice