

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
“Faith and Commitment”
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

“Thomas Merton wrote, ‘There is always a temptation to diddle around in the contemplative life, making itsy-bitsy statues.’ There is always an enormous temptation in all of life to diddle around making itsy-bitsy friends and meals and journeys for itsy-bitsy years on end. It is so self-conscious, so apparently moral, simply to step aside from the gaps where the creeks and the winds pour down, saying, I never merited this grace, quite rightly, and then to sulk along the rest of your days on the edge of rage. I won’t have it. The world is wilder than that in all directions, more dangerous and bitter, more extravagant and bright. We are making hay when we should be making whoopee; we are raising tomatoes when we should be raising Cain, or Lazarus.”

- Annie Dillard *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Check-In/Sharing

Topic/Readings:

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... I’m free to choose what that something is, and the something I’ve chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands—this is not optional—my faith *demand*s that I do whatever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.”

- Jimmy Carter

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must also...undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

- Thomas Paine

Facilitator: Please read these quotes aloud and ask the folks assembled to reflect for a moment on the connection between their faith and their commitment(s).

Some questions to consider:

- Does our free faith have any costs associated with it?
- How does your faith assist you in taking on commitments that seem daunting?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” - Micah 6:8

Amen. May you live in blessing.