

*Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website*

## **Freedom & Responsibility**

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

### **Chalice Lighting**

Lighting this flame, we dedicate ourselves to this time together,  
To affirming and challenges ourselves and each other,  
And to walking our journeys for freedom and justice in the world.

### **Check In**

#### **Reading: from *Our Chosen Faith*, by Forrest Church**

Because of our tradition and self-image as a “faith of the free,” some people who come to our churches, calling themselves “free spirits,” are hell-bent on fighting the evil of an organized anything... Unitarian Universalists have come to trust and place great value on freedom and individualism. What we tend to forget is that they emphasized freedom in order to liberate themselves from bondage. Today our problem is not bondage, but bondlessness. Most of us are already free. We don’t need more freedom. We need the resolve to employ the freedom we have responsibly. We need to invest a little of our precious freedom and bond ourselves to others in redemptive community.

#### **Discussion & Sharing Questions:**

- Share about an experience where you exercised or benefited from a freedom.
- Before dying, Spiderman’s uncle tells him that with great power comes great responsibility. Freedom is a form of power. In what ways have you found freedom and responsibility to be connected?
- What responsibilities do you feel because of your freedoms? What do you find it easier to act on? What about any that you find it more difficult to act on?
- How can this group and your church community empower you in finding a balance between freedom and responsibility?

### **Closing Thoughts**

In the coming week, what is one way that you can act on a sense of responsibility stemming from a freedom that you have?

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**