

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
"Hospitality"
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:

(30) And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

(31) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

(32) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

(33) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

(34) And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own breast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

(35) And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

(36) Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

(37) And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

- *Luke 10:30-37, King James Version*

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Reading:

"Go with me from airline counter to airline counter, and you will see that airline clerks are brutalized if there is a winter storm, as if they had any control over the weather," says Joan

Chittister, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and author of many books on the subject, including "Wisdom Distilled From the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today." "That is not hospitality, because it is not treating the other with respect."

But, Chittister adds, hospitality is not about being a doormat. She recently wrote a letter to an airline about a problem during such a situation, beginning her letter by gently explaining that she was offering this information in order to keep the company informed. "They need to know what is going on," she adds. "but they don't deserve to be kicked."

Hospitality is not a flurry of sentimental acts or occasional gestures. It is a sustained commitment to the belief that the way we treat one another day by day matters deeply.

"Too often when somebody's having a hard day, we just run away from them rather than inviting them in," says Paul Wilkes, author of "Beyond the Walls: Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life."

"Anyone that you know in pain--invite them into the comfort of your arms and say, 'Hey, what's going on? You look as though things are tough today.' That's not unlike putting a cloak on somebody's back as you go or giving them food or water."

- *Lynda McDaniel*

Questions for consideration:

How do you practice hospitality in your life? When has hospitality been extended to you and it has really made a difference in the quality of your existence? Hospitality is more than just making a nice table setting for someone; what gives hospitality its religious dimension?

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- *Hebrews 13:2*

Amen. May you go in peace. May you live in blessing.