

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
CHALICE CIRCLE SESSION
The Need for Beauty
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, ME June 2023

Opening Words:

Beauty is simple and complex, obvious and elusive, superficial and profound, spontaneous and achieved with great effort, impossible to define and essential to articulate.

J. Ruth Gendler, Notes On The Need for Beauty

Covenant:

Check-In:

Topic Introduction:

Sister Joan Roccasalvo writes “The experience of beauty in body, mind, and spirit is a universal human need. Beauty penetrates to the psyche’s deepest levels and offers meaning to life.”

A list of the essentials of life start with food, clothing, and shelter. Is beauty also essential? Do you agree that humans have a need – a drive – to create it? To seek it? There are countless ways to create or find beauty – in art, music, craft, dance, architecture, order, mathematics, gardening, personal style, nature, etc. What we each see as beautiful is personal. Bringing beauty into our lives or appreciating beauty around us, however, takes time; when lives are too rushed, this essential element gets left by the wayside. What is the fallout? And if beauty is essential, what of people who are deprived of it as a result of their living situations?

Questions:

1. What were your earliest experiences of beauty?
2. What do you personally find beautiful?
3. Do you seek out beauty? Where do you find it?
4. What do you do to create beauty?
5. What effect does being in the presence of beauty or creating something beautiful have on you?
6. What do you find beautiful that others around you do not?

Likes and Wishes:

Closing Words:

Beauty offers lasting satisfaction. Gazing at a sunset, visiting a museum, listening to lovely music, deriving satisfaction from a mathematical or scientific project, seeing beauty in oneself and in others – all of these are designed especially for us. A person deprived of beauty is like a person deprived of love.

Sister Joan L. Roccasalvo, C.S.J.