

## *Service*

First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist  
Written by Tracy Blanchard

### ***Opening Words and Chalice Lighting***

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold service was joy.  
- Rabindranath Tagore

### ***Check-in***

How is it with your spirit? What did you leave behind to be here today?

***Remind group about service component of program, as discussed in the first meeting.***

### ***Reading***

The world cannot always understand one's profession of faith, but it can understand service.  
- Ian Maclare

Each word of comfort, each act of compassion is a small bonfire during dark nights. But these tiny flickering flames, the simple gestures of loving hearts will add up and will eventually save the world. Salvation is not something we have to wait for, but as good Unitarians, we should do something about it. Because we can. Because we can, therefore we must.  
- Dr. Imre Gellérd

Cherish your best hopes as a faith, and abide by them in action.  
- Margaret Fuller, Unitarian layperson

The call to service is a yearning for the heart to live and move beyond ourselves. Love, compassion and gratitude lead many to a life of service.  
- Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, Spiritual Literacy

We include service in our model of Small Group Ministry because service is always both a path and an outcome of spiritual growth.  
- Rev. Calvin Dame

### ***Questions for Contemplation***

- Describe a time when, to paraphrase Dr. Gellérd, you reached out to someone or when someone reached out to you, with a simple gesture of the heart. What feelings did this gesture evoke?
- When wanting to help or serve others, what obstacles have you faced that kept you from taking action? What did you do, or do you wish you could have done, to overcome these?
- There is a need for service on a person-to-person level and for service on a broader level, working for change locally, nationally, or internationally. Based on your experiences, does one appeal to you more? If so, how or why?

- A powerful intimacy can develop when groups work together to serve. Describe a time when you felt this and what it meant to you.
- Has service been important in your spiritual life? If so, how and what kind?
- Have you ever felt at a loss due to lack of opportunities for service in your life?

### ***Discussion of potential projects***

Part of our group's covenant is to perform a short service project together. To take a first step toward doing so, let's discuss the attached suggestions or other ideas you have about how our Covenant Group could perform service for the congregation, the denomination, or the wider community.

### ***Check-out: Likes and Wishes***

### ***Closing Words and Extinguishing of Chalice***

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us.

What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

- Albert Pine

### ***Our covenant***

- To abide by the below set of covenantal statements we developed together.
- To engage in at least one service project to the congregation or larger world.
- To hold an "empty chair" so as to always welcome new members (both into the group as well as into the larger program).
- To make meetings a high priority.
- *Insert the covenant your group developed here.*