

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
A Space to Sit
Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, Lutherville, MD, Robin Sinn, Nov. 21, 2016

Reconnecting politics to our best values is now the most important task of a political life. – Jim Wallis

I found this quote in a book called *Spiritual Literacy*, published in 1996. A Google search tells me the quote is from his 1995 book titled *The Soul of Politics: Beyond “Religious Right” and “Religious Left”*. Mr. Wallis is a Harvard-educated Christian writer and political activist. While I’ve taken this quote out of context, it seems to have been written for this moment in time.

As we process the election fallout, I’d like us to devote this time to listening to each other’s concerns, hopes, and thoughts. I hope we won’t veer into attacks, hyperbole, or name-calling of any of the political persons involved in the election and its aftermath.

This is a space to sit with our current muddle of feelings and be accepted.

Check-in

Please share a joy or concern that will let you focus on our time this evening.

Readings

I think one of the biggest political failures, and the biggest social failures, over the past few years has been the failure of empathy; not being able to look at the other person down the street. – Colum McCann

America is not just a democracy, it represents a certain culture of competitive mobility and personality aspirations, politics is not merely a clash of interests, but a clash of dreams. – David Brooks

Discussion questions

Will you do something in response to this election that you haven’t done before?

Has this election cycle caused you to re-evaluate any of your own beliefs or behaviors?

How do you feel about democracy, in general, at this point in time?

How do you prepare to discuss politics with friends, family, and colleagues whose values don’t align with yours?

Closing

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope. – Martin Luther King, Jr.