

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS (in general) (for me, in particular)

First Universalist Church Unitarian Universalist, Auburn, ME, Rev. Glenn H. Turner

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

The purpose of our lives is to be happy.

Dalai Lama

SILENT REFLECTION

CHECK IN: (40 - 50 minutes)

What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing.

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted, for five minutes each, if there is time remaining, additional sharing and responses are welcome.

FOCUS: "The Purpose of Life is... (in general) (for me, in particular)"

We are all amateur philosophers or theologians wrestling with the great questions of identity, meaning, and purpose.

When you were starting out in life (say in your twenties), did you have any sense of what your purpose in life was?

How did it inform your choice of job or profession? How did it affect how you dealt with other people? How did it affect what organizations you belonged to or supported? Is your purpose in life at odds with the culture?

In general, what do you think is the purpose in life? What is your purpose?

Now, some of us have reached the stage of retirement. How does that change our sense of purpose

LIKES AND WISHES

CLOSING WORDS

Our purpose is simple -- to Love.

To love each other, to love all life, and to love our earth.

Anthony Douglas Williams, *Inside the Divine Pattern*