

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan OCTOBER

Miracles!

May your time together be meaningful and full of warm connection! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS: "Ministry" by Gordon B. McKeeman

Ministry is:

*a quality of relationship between and among human beings that beckons forth hidden possibilities;
inviting people into deeper, more constant, more reverent relationship with the world and with one another;
carrying forward a long heritage of hope and liberation that has dignified and informed
the human venture over many centuries;*

*being present with, to, and for others in their terrors and torments in their grief, misery and pain;
knowing that those feelings are our feelings, too;*

celebrating the triumphs of the human spirit, the miracles of birth and life, the wonders
of devotion and sacrifice;

witnessing to life-enhancing values; speaking truth to power;

speaking for human dignity and equity, for compassion and aspiration;

believing in life in the presence of death; struggling for human responsibility

against principalities and structures that ignore humaneness and become instruments of
death.

*It is all these and much, much more than all of them, present in
the wordless, the unspoken, the ineffable.*

It is speaking and living the highest we know and living with the knowledge that it is
never as deep, or as wide or as high as we wish.

*Whenever there is a meeting that summons us to our better selves, wherever
our lostness is found, our fragments are united,*

our wounds begin healing, our spines stiffen and

our muscles grow strong for the task,

there is ministry.

CHECK-IN

READINGS

A gentle word, a kind look, a good-natured smile can work wonders and accomplish
miracles. ~William Hazlitt

Miracles happen everyday, change your perception of what a miracle is and you'll see
them all around you. ~Jon Bon Jovi

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan OCTOBER

The human race survived the Inquisition. We can survive. It's like the Anne Frank quote: 'In spite of everything, I still believe that people are basically good at heart.' Given what happened to her, it's one of the miracles of the world that she said that. ~Steve Earle

Love is the great miracle cure. Loving ourselves works miracles in our lives. ~Louise L. Hay

I believe that miracles happen every day. Every person is a miracle. Every moment is a miracle. If only we can open our eyes, we'll see God's love everywhere. ~Bo Sanchez

Out of difficulties grow miracles. ~Jean de la Bruyere

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. What spoke to you from the readings?
2. Do any of the readings connect to your understanding of your faith or being UU?
3. Where is the sacred in your understanding of miracles?
4. What would you like the children of this congregation, our faith tradition and our community to know and understand about miracles in our lives?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS & Extinguish the Chalice or Candle

HOPE DOES DWELL By Elizabeth Nguyen

God of mercy, spirit who makes peace out of war, who wanders with refugees and keeps vigil with children at our border and all borders; Holy healer in hospitals and shelters, at schools, in homes, at weddings, and in planes; May your love be balm for all the hurt.

May your truth be present in offices of power and in the hearts of soldiers and civilians alike.

Many times we've thought the arc was bending towards justice.

*Many times we saw it happen in courtrooms and in streets, in the hearts of people creating their own liberation. Many times we've also doubted. For those of us this morning who doubt, who despair that brokenness and suffering and war may win, remind us of the small mercies, the tiny triumphs: **hope does dwell in this world.***