**Embracing Possibilit**y

 **UU Soul Matters Topic for September 2021 Adapted for ERUUF CG/CCs**

**Chalice Lighting and Check-in**

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask: “What’s possible?” not “What’s wrong?” Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams… Margaret Wheatley

**Topic Introduction**

Of all our themes this year, Embracing Possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential. As social activists, we all assume we are capable of impact, both individually and collectively.

 But Embracing Possibility may have more to do with being a people of vulnerability and courage than we’ve thought. The work isn’t just about *believing* in possibility. It’s about being willing to endure a few wounds along the way. It can hurt to be hopeful. So our personal relationships, our work, our communities, our activism—all are experienced differently with possibility than without it.

**Wise Words**

It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.
*Paulo Coelho*

Argue for your limitations and sure enough they're yours.
*Richard Bach*

Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small people who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It’s a dare. *Muhammad Ali*

There is more to see in myself than just what I look for. There is more to see in my enemies than just what I look for. There is more to see in this country than just what I look for. I need this to be true. I need to stop looking for affirmation of what I already believe and instead see the world and others and myself through the eyes of a God who loves all of it madly. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

**Questions for Individual Reflection and Sharing (choose one or two to respond to)**

1. Who or what taught you the most about defying expectations and unleashing your potential and possibility? What’s an example of how you have put that into action.
2. What would enable you to leave a life story about yourself you may have outgrown? What might that look like?
3. How have you maintained your vision of possibility of a better world amidst the turmoil of the last several years? Are there personal practices that have helped you?
4. What is a personal relationship you have let go of that you are willing to view with possibility for healing? How might you take an initial step?
5. What is a situation you understood as impossible that you are now willing to approach as a dare?
6. How have you availed yourself of the power of community in maintaining a sense of possibility? How might you more fully take advantage of that resource?
7. How might a stance of possibility change the way you approach a current ongoing conflict?

**Responses/Discussion**

**Group Business**

**Likes and Wishes**

**Closing Words and Extinguish Chalice**

We have an obligation to imagine. It is easy to pretend that nobody can change anything, that we are in a world in which society is huge and the individual is less than nothing: an atom in a wall, a grain of rice in a rice field. But the truth is, individuals change their world over and over, individuals make the future, and they do it by imagining that things can be different.

*Neil Gaiman*

**Additional Resources**

Follow the links below to connect with this month’s Embracing Possibility songs.

Click here for the Spotify playlist on Embracing Possibility

Click here for all Spotify playlists.

Click here for the YouTube playlist on Embracing Possibility

Click here for all the YouTube playlists.

***Articles***

**Why the Coronavirus Is Humanity’s Wake-Up Call**

*David Korten*

Full article at https://www.yesmagazine.org/opinion/2020/03/18/coronavirus-wake-up-call

“This is humanity’s wake-up call… As we respond to the coronavirus emergency and the immediate needs of the people and communities impacted by it, let us also keep in view the systemic needs and possibilities that crisis exposes...”

**The impossible has already happened**

*Rebecca Solnit*

Full article found HERE

“At moments of immense change, we see with new clarity the systems – political, economic, social, ecological – in which we are immersed as they change around us. We see what’s strong, what’s weak, what’s corrupt, what matters and what doesn’t.

I often think of these times as akin to a spring thaw… The ice was the arrangement of power relations that we call the status quo – it seems to be stable, and those who benefit from it often insist that it’s unchangeable. Then it changes fast and dramatically, and that can be exhilarating, terrifying, or both…”

**Four Narratives of America**

*Doug Muder*

https://weeklysift.com/2021/06/21/four-narratives-of-america/

On the “four americas” and the possibility of a united national vision.

**Reparations are required; anything less is an insult**

*Shay, Black Girl in Maine*

https://blackgirlinmaine.com/current-events/reparations-are-required-anything-less-is-an-insult/