

UUCMC Covenant Circle Session January 2019: Possibility

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting

You are not too old, and it is not too late. ~ Unknown

Reminder of our Covenant

Check-In (3-4 minutes each)

Topic with Readings

Word Roots

Possibility and possible come from the Latin posse to be able. It is closely linked to the Latin potis which carries the idea of the power of possibility, the potency of possibility.

There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground. ~ Jelaluddin Rumi

Think in ways you've never thought before.

If the phone rings, think of it as carrying a message

Larger than anything you've ever heard...

When someone knocks on the door, think that their about

To give you something large: tell you you're forgiven,

Or that it's not necessary to work all the time,

or that it's been decided that if you lie down no one will die. ~ Robert Bly

We keep looking so hard in life for the “specific message,” and yet we are blinded to the fact that the message we really need is all around us, and within us all the time. We just have to stop demanding that it be on OUR terms or conditions, and instead open ourselves to the possibility that what we need may be in front of us all the time.

~ Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander, from *The Art of Possibility*

This beginning has been quietly forming

Waiting until you were ready to emerge...

It watched you play with the seduction of safety...

Wondered would you always live like this. ~ John O'Donahue

Have you considered the possibility

that everything you believe is wrong,

not merely off a bit, but totally wrong...

How different the world seems then:

everyone who was your enemy is your friend,

everything you hated, you now love... ~ Federico Moramarco

I'm becoming a fan of 'the pause'. Between notes and pages and words and breaths, between thought and voice, between action and reaction. In that momentary stillness, in that space between before and

after, there is possibility, a myriad of paths that can be taken, a dozen different versions of me.
~ Judy Clement Wall

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.
~ Howard Zinn

Silent Reflection

Questions to prompt discussion (choose ones that work for you)

1. Who taught you the most about “living and leaning into possibility”? How does their memory call you to today?
2. What did your childhood and family of origin teach you about possibility? Are those lessons ones you need to remember or reject?
3. What are others learning about living and leaning into possibility by watching you?
4. We all have dreams of what's possible. We live with a voice that says “One day I will...” What “possible life” has been with you the longest? Why has it remained a dream for so long?
5. What “possible new you” did you pledge yourself to last new year's? Is it time to pledge yourself to it again? Or is time to finally let it go?
6. Is it possible that the thing you want is not the thing you need?
7. Is “That was unfair!” or “I was wronged” keeping you from the possibility of moving on?
8. Are you sure you're too old to do it?
9. Are you sure it's too late to try it?

Housekeeping Details How goes your service project plans? Do you need ideas? Lisa, Michelle or Virginia are happy to help!

Closing Words

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.
~ Maria Robinson