



GUUF 75th Anniversary - Celebrating 75 Years of Love and Light

Covenant Group Session Plan

Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Greenville, South Carolina

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Welcome, Chalice Lighting

The Greenville UU Fellowship will turn 75 on Dec 5, 2025. We light this chalice to honor 75 years of shared ministry, For the hands that built these walls, For the voices that filled them with song, For the hearts that filled them with love, And for the spirit that continues to call us forward. 75 years of Love and Light.

Personal Check In: Briefly share something from your life since we last met and how you are feeling now.

Opening Words:

Life is a gift for which we are grateful. We gather in community to celebrate the glories and the mysteries of this great gift. ~Marjorie Montgomery, *Singing the Living Tradition*, Reading # 452

Questions to prompt and guide discussion:

1. What drew you to this congregation initially, and what keeps you here? Share your story of finding GUUF.
2. When you think about our congregation's history, what story or moment stands out to you as particularly meaningful? How has this story shaped your understanding of our community?
3. Consider an elder or long-time member of our congregation who has influenced your spiritual journey. What wisdom or practice did they share that continues to guide you?
4. Imagine someone sitting in these same chairs 25, 50, or 75 years from now. What do you hope they will say about the legacy our current congregation left behind? What seeds are we planting today for future generations?
5. How has being part of this multigenerational community shaped your understanding of what it means to be in covenant with others? What commitments and connections do you feel called to make for the next chapter of our shared journey?
6. How can we ensure that new generations feel welcomed and included in our community?

Readings

We build on foundations we did not lay. We warm ourselves by fires we did not light. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig. We profit from persons we did not know. We are ever bound in community."

~From *We Build on Foundations We Did Not Lay* by Peter Raible

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread but it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. ~*The Thread* by William Stafford

In our looking backward, we seek wisdom for the journey forward. In our honoring of the past, we find courage for tomorrow. In remembering their dreams, we dare to claim our own.

What they dreamed be ours to do. What they built be ours to grow. What they loved be ours to share.

~From *What They Dreamed Be Ours to Do* by Janice Marie Johnson

As you live, believe in life. Always human beings will progress to greater, broader, and fuller life.

The only hindrance to living is fear and a rigid adherence to things which have worked before. Try always to create, and let creation be foremost in your thoughts."

~From *Continuity* by Maya Angelou

Sitting in Silence (Reflect on questions and readings before sharing starts)

Sharing - This is a time to speak without interruption and for deep listening. Deep listening means no interrupting, no fixing, no saving, no advising, and no setting each other straight. Please share responses to one or more of the session questions or the readings.

(This is usually a good time to take a brief break)

Open Discussion -This is a time to respond to something another person said about the topic or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared their thoughts on this topic. Continue to practice deep listening.

Closing reading:

Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere;

its temple, all space;

its creed, all truth;

its ritual, works of love;

its profession of faith, divine living.

~Theodore Parker, *Singing the Living Tradition*, Reading #684

Announcements/Plans

Check out: As we close today, how are you feeling now?

Extinguish the Chalice

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.

These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

List of GUUF 75th Anniversary events

April 27, 2025 – Sunday Service on GUUF's 75th Anniversary

June 7, 2025 – Love and Light Greenville Symphony Orchestra String Trio Concert at GUUF

June 18-22, 2025 – Gathering at UU General Assembly in Baltimore, MD

September 12-14, 2025 – Celebration at the Mountain Retreat Center, Highlands, NC

And more plans:

- Historical timeline
- Recognition of membership and past presidents
- Congregational participation project on the theme of Love and Light
- A gift from GUUF to GUUF
- Merch!, Swag!