Rev's Reflections

Making Us Us

It's the conundrum of our UU congregations: If UUs can believe whatever we want, then what is it that holds us together? What makes us UUs? What makes us *us*?

First, let's dispel the myth that we can believe whatever we want. It's just not true. We have room for lots of different beliefs in the nature of the divine, the existence of God, and what happens to us after we die, but we have no room for neo-Nazis, Christian nationalists or incels. (If you don't know what an incel is, feel free to google it, but be prepared to be horrified.)

It may not be obvious, but there are a whole bunch of things that make us *us,* so to explore those things, I'll be offering a series of classes called "Making Us Us: The Practices, Theologies and Beliefs of Unitarian Universalism. They will be three inter-related classes to deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism offered over the course of 13 months or so. Participants may choose to take one, two, or all three classes.

Here's what it will look like.

Fall 2024 Tuesday Evenings, 7-8:30
"What We Do: The Practices of Unitarian Universalism"
Three sessions of discussion only, without homework.

- 9/24 Liturgy: what we do on Sunday, and why; what we can take home with us
- 10/1 Celebrations: Chalice Days; Water and Flower Communions; Blessing of hands, backpacks and animals; Jewish, Christian and Pagan Holidays
- 10/8 Rites of Passage: New member recognition; child dedication and third grade affirmation; coming of age; marriage and divorce; aging and croning; funerals, memorials and celebrations of life

Spring 2025 (Dates TBD)

"Our Sources: The Theologies of Unitarian Universalism"
Five sessions of discussion about weekly reading.
- Christian and Jewish roots
- Buddhist influences
- Feminist and Womanist theologies
- Liberation Theology
- Process Theology

Fall 2025 (Dates TBD)
"Writing Your Own Credo: The Beliefs of Unitarian Universalism"
Four sessions of discussion and weekly writing, plus a final presentation.
- The purpose/meaning of life
- Connections and responsibilities to the planet and other living beings
- What happens after you die?
- Sharing our beliefs: Presentations of Credos

You can sign up for the first class by letting me know via email. More information will be coming forth about the following classes. All of them will be great opportunities to learn more about ourselves and each other.

In Peace,
Rev Denis