

## **What a Chalice Circle is Intended to Be**

A way to deepen our spirituality through a shared practice.

A way to share our thoughts on life's big questions.

A way to connect across age, gender, ethnic, economic and other differences.

A way to bring together the newer and the longtime members of our community.

A way to deepen our practice of shared UU principles.

A way to practice service from within a small community.

A way to develop our connections with the rest of the congregation.

## **What a Chalice Circle is NOT Intended to Be**

A social club, although ties between church members deepen through Chalice Circles.

A debate society, although many important topics are discussed.

A support or therapy group, although the atmosphere is positive.

A worship service, although the meetings and topics have a strong spiritual tone.

A rigid template of activities, although there are general guidelines to follow.

A closed club, although groups must be limited in size to be effective.

**Being part of a Chalice Circle is a great way to:**

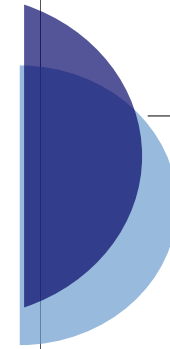
**Get to know other members and friends of the church better**

**Develop supportive relationships in an accepting and nurturing atmosphere**

**Explore the “big questions” of life's meaning and purpose with people you trust**

**Deepen your understanding of our Unitarian Universalist values**

**Discover and use your gifts in service to our church and the wider community**



**Chalice  
Circles**



**at the Unitarian  
Universalist Church of  
Urbana-Champaign**



# Why Join a Chalice Circle?

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## What is a Chalice Circle?

A Chalice Circle consists of 5-11 members and friends of the church who meet regularly to explore meaningful topics together.

Groups provide opportunities for building and deepening friendships and communities. Chalice Circles allow and encourage personal and spiritual growth through exploration of life's fundamental questions.

Chalice Circles meet at least once a month for about two hours. The format of the meetings helps participants set aside daily distractions, reflect on their lives and beliefs, and make meaningful connections with one another.

Through sharing their wisdom, members leave each meeting with a deeper understanding of themselves and of each other. Each Chalice Circle becomes a small, personal community of listening and caring in the midst of a larger congregation.

## Chalice Circles . . .

are an opportunity for friends and members of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within our community through small-group involvement. They organize themselves around a particular activity/issue as their point of departure, or have changing topics of discussion.

Join one of our ongoing Circles, or consider starting your own. Contact the leaders of the groups for more information, or speak to our minister, Rev. Axel Gehrmann at 384-8862.

## Chalice Circle for discussion of Topics of Personal and Spiritual Growth

first Thursday of the month, 7:15 pm  
Contact Karen Ruhleder  
(356-8190, ruhleder@hotmail.com )

## Caregiver's Chalice Circle

third Monday of the month, 7 pm  
Contact Karen Retzer (352-9482) or  
Mary Kay Solecki (688-2931)

## Reflective Writing Chalice Circle

third Thursday of the month, 7pm.  
Contact Pat Nolan (384-7477,  
pnolan96@aol.com)

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