

**Possibility**  
UU Community Church of Santa Monica  
Heart to Heart Circles  
January 2019

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.

So maybe the question this month isn't "Are you ready to lean into possibility?" but "Who's beside you and who are you bringing along?" "Who have you gathered to patch and pick you up when the path gets bumpy?" After all, no one makes it down the road of possibility alone.

**Welcome and Explanations** 5 minutes  
**Chalice Lighting**

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

**Sharing Silence** 3 minutes

You may wish to bring your attention to your breath, or move a bit until you have found a comfortable seat. If silence is not a familiar experience to you, three minutes may seem long. If you are accustomed to silence, it may seem short.

**On Our Hearts** 15 minutes

Please share any burdens you bring with you today. This is not a check-in, it is a time to share wonderful news or a heavy heart - the major highs and lows of your life you'd like everyone to keep in their hearts or in their prayers for you.

**Covenant and Ground Rules**

Our covenant includes a description of how we want to be with each other, ground rules for our time together, and our expectations for members of the group. This covenant is adapted from *Heart to Heart: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins.

I commit myself:

- to give attendance at meetings a real priority knowing that my presence is important to the group;
- to let the leader know if I will be absent or need to quit;
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others;
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others;
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart;
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, problem solving, or giving advice;
- and to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn.

## Readings

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

So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.  
Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

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

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. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing. Muhammad Ali

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

### **Questions for consideration:**

1. Who taught you the most about “living and leaning into possibility”? How does their memory call you to today?
2. What are others learning about living and leaning into possibility by watching you?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. Is it possible that the thing you’re sure you’re right about is wrong?
6. Is there more to see in your “enemy” than what you’ve been staring at?

**Sharing** 60 minutes

### **Reflecting On Our Time Together**

Please share anything that would otherwise be unsaid as you leave our time together. Do you wish you had shared something more, less, different? How are you feeling as you leave? Feeling words are ok, such as sad, mad, glad, peaceful, powerful, joyful.

### **Closing Words**

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

Judy Clement Wall