



OUR CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES



We are a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community. Our core values embrace diversity and acceptance of all people who seek truth, goodness, and deep meaning in life

We have no shared creed. We are ecumenical, include people from many different faith traditions, and welcome both believers and non-believers.

We recognize the dignity and sacredness of every human being. We honor that value by extending an extravagant welcome to everyone who participates in our services and activities as a member, visitor, or member of the broader community.

We believe that people seek meaningful lives with a sense of deeper purpose than mere survival. We hold that each person has the freedom and responsibility to create their own belief system based on an informed conscience, deep reflection, inspiration, meditation, and response to prayer.

We offer opportunities for our members to grow spiritually through fellowship, contemplation, education, and action. They can contribute their gifts and talents to social justice outreach, church leadership, and administrative duties, and care for people within and outside the church.

Members who have identified causes close to their hearts who would like to initiate new missions or programs can present them to the Wedgewood Community for support and possible shared resources.

While we strive for peace and harmony in our own community and throughout the world, we believe we must confront injustices wherever we find them. Currently, our priorities include devoting individual and group resources to ending systemic racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, religious discrimination, and classism based on economic injustice.

We believe in honoring the interdependent web of life that shares our environment and eco-system and seek to live in harmony with Nature to conserve the earth and achieve clean air and water. For now, we have chosen to be lay led rather than serve under the leadership of clergy from any particular faith system.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSIBILITIES: HOW WE STRIVE TO TREAT ONE ANOTHER



We have modified the 7 Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Church, the processes of the Washington Ethical Society and other resources to select behavioral principles to guide us in choosing how we treat one another and build effective community:

We honor the inherent worth and dignity of everyone, without regard to their station in life, financial worth, or power. We treat everyone with respect.

We treat everyone fairly, with justice, equity, and compassion. We acknowledge we are all “saints and sinners” and strive to give people chances to self-correct. Everyone is deserving of grace - people are also accountable for their actions and the harm they may cause.

We tell the truth and manage our own affairs and the business of the church with transparency and actions that demonstrate we are trustworthy.

We accept people’s differences and accommodate special needs or circumstances.

We believe each person is free to search for truth and meaning in their own way.

We speak directly and face to face with other people, rather than gossiping or talking “behind their backs.”

We accept as well as offer constructive criticism first in private, whenever possible.

We focus on the well-being of our community as a whole rather than individual contributions/contributors in the spirit of humility.

We show our appreciation and celebrate successful efforts.

We listen deeply both to others’ words and the music behind the words (i.e. emotions).

We check for understanding of others’ comments and actions before reacting or deciding.

We allow others to follow their own conscience, and don’t try to convert them.

We follow a democratic process in leadership and congregational meetings.