

What is Important?

My grandmother once told me that one looks at the world through the evil in your own eyes. What's in your heart will determine what you see. Thus we have rose-colored glasses, tear stained eyes, and looks that could kill. What we see reflects our own internal state more than the objective reality. So I want us today to adapt a gaze of what's important. Let's together look at the world through the lens of what we value and cherish.

So I start at what is important to me. Freedom. Beauty. Community. Integrity. Compassion. Humor. Balance. Openness. And love. I believe in free will, bodily integrity, personal spiritual authority and the right to deal with the consequences of one's actions. To be nurtured more than protected.

My draft mission:

To walk in beauty, to create community, to live in harmony, to show compassion, to act with integrity and to relish freedom. And most of all to love.

It has been said that we are what we do. Our actions speak louder than anything we say. Let's look at our lives and see if we can figure out what is important. How much time do we spend in the company of folks who matter to us. Loved ones, friends, community. How much time do we spend taking care of ourselves - physically, emotionally, spiritually, mentally.

How much money do we spend on things that will not last, that cannot be passed on, reused or shared? How much time do we spend making lists that doesn't include things like self-care, or listening to our loved ones, or reading/writing for self-inspiration? How do we spend our mornings and our evenings? Being grateful? Reflecting? Integrating? Remembering?

Are our dreams filled with hopes of financial security but not the security of justice, the security of peace or the security of abundance? Do we plan for worst-case scenarios? Never imagining the best that life has to offer. Do we act as if the world doesn't produce enough for all who dwell upon it - so we fight over crumbs, fight for our share without looking at the whole of it. If the attainment of your desire cause deprivation elsewhere, do you ask yourself why?

What is important to you? How does it manifest in your life? What is important to us as individuals, as members of our respective communities, as part of STC as part of this city, this region, this country, this hemisphere, and this planet?

How do we manifest what is important to us. How can we? How can we not?

What is important to you?

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Sermon for Sojourner Truth Congregation of Unitarian Universalists