



TUESDAYS IN OCTOBER SEMINAR SERIES via ZOOM, 6-7 PM

The Unitarian Church in Westport is opening up its ZOOM room to all who are interested in joining us on Tuesdays in October, 6-7 PM, when we'll be discussing the challenges of **Living Progressive Values in a Polarized Election Season**. Friends and neighbors of all political persuasions are welcome.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. John Morehouse, will begin each hour with observations/connections to our liberal faith tradition, Unitarian-Universalism. And then we'll open it up to all for discussion, debate, and conversation. Multiple points of view are welcome – we only ask that folks be respectful, constructive, and thoughtful as they share their ideas.

This series will invite people to reflect on our liberal faith's principles and how we live them out with grace, love and conviction at such a fractious time in our democracy. Where does Tolerance fit in? Justice? How do our spiritual beliefs and values guide our daily behaviors and words right now?

Topics are scheduled to be as follows:

1. Oct. 6: **Civility, Tolerance and Grace.**  
How do we keep conversations alive and friendships and family relationships intact when interacting with those who have different views or beliefs from ours? When do we walk away? What does our faith and teachings ask us to do in these tricky situations? This session will focus on skills and tactics, as well as a more philosophical discussion.
2. Oct 13: **The Blurring of Church and State.**  
Religious conservatism has been blurring the line between church and state, both in what it stands for and how it believes the country should answer to its God. What is the liberal faith tradition's appropriate response to this development?
3. Oct 20: **Public Convictions and Private Behaviors.**  
Many election issues today have financial or personal consequences: to our property values, tax rates, job security, reputations. How do we stay strong to our values, when "no one is looking" as we vote, and when the consequences could be real and significant? How do we know where to draw the line? What is a useful framework for our judgements and decision-making?
4. Oct 27: **Our Children: Our Pupils and Our Teachers.**  
What role do our children have in this 2020 election? Whatever we do now will have a profound impact on the next generations of Americans, affecting their world: their climate, democracy, ways of living. What can they teach us - about ballot issues, yes, but also about civility, honesty, leadership - and what do we need to teach them? How do we engage them constructively and safely? What do we want to tell them about the election process today, and what should we be needing to hear from them?

This promises to be an enlightening and engaging series. Please contact us at [events@uwestport.org](mailto:events@uwestport.org) for ZOOM information. We'd love to have you with us!

*\*Caveat: Topics may change as the month progresses - there is a lot going on during this election cycle.*