

Sermon/Story

There is no better way for a congregation to begin its new church year than to welcome and dedicate its children and their families. And you do not have to be a baby to be “officially” dedicated as a part of this church community. Any child of any age is always welcomed to be a part of these ceremonies. At our annual gatherings of General Assembly groups of youngsters are often a part of this unique Unitarian-Universalist tradition.

And the ceremony is about welcoming and honoring our children with the unshakeable foundation of love. “Give us the spirit of the child who is not afraid to love.”

So truly the basis to all of our welcoming is this ideal of unconditional love. So what exactly does this mean unconditional love?

Do your parents only love you when you’re on your very best behavior? When you receive a perfect report card? Do they love you even when your room is a total disaster?

No of course not! They welcome you home and love you no matter what – right?

Well I want to tell you a story that will kind show us what this means.

The story is about a man name Mullah Nasruddin.

TELL STORY.....

COME AS YOU ARE PARTIES.....

But, this is who we are as Unitarian-Universalist – not that we have come as you are parties..... But we welcome you to our church, our congregation – just as you are. You do not have to leave any part of yourself at the door to walk in here and be welcomed. This is simply who we are; *we are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action and universal justice.*

And we welcome you. We welcome you home!!

Amen.