

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times
Week 2: Crime, Race, Terrorism and Politics
Small Group Discussion Questions

Welcome and opening prayer: *Creator God, who set the stars in the heavens, give us ears to hear the drumbeat of your steadfast love upholding the universe. Renew our senses so that we can be attuned to your ways. For courage in these days, we pray. Amen.*

1. In Chapter 5, Hamilton talks about how distorted thinking can lead us to over-estimate the threat of things such as violent crime. What are the factors leading to this kind distorted thinking? How can “facts be our friend” when considering external threats?
2. As our response to terrorism, Hamilton mentions the twin challenges of preventing future attacks and exhibiting “courageous compassion” for refugees and people of other faiths who come from war-torn countries. He quotes Jeremiah 22:3--“Do what is just and right; rescue the oppressed from the power of the oppressor. Don’t exploit or mistreat the refugee, the orphan, and the widow.” Imagine our church sponsoring a refugee family from Syria. What does doing “what is just and right” look like in this situation?
3. In Chapter 8, Hamilton notes the findings of Dr. Shana Goldstein, Syracuse sociologist, showing that when we are anxious, we actually seek out news sources that increase our anxiety. How true is this? Why do you go to the news sources you use?
4. The focus text in worship this morning was Romans 12:9-21 (the text is in your bulletin). What does this passage tell us about living with people with whom we disagree? If we took the passage seriously, what would change about our approach to those who may have different political beliefs?
5. In his sermon, Scott told us about the response of Unitarians in Madison when the community learned that his ordination would be picketed. As a Christian, how did you react to what the Unitarians did?
6. In this contentious election season, what is one thing you can do to “let your love be genuine?”