



News about the All Souls NYC Religious Education Program

Thursday, February 23rd, 2023

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world and am free.

~ Wendell Berry





Dear Families,

Wendell Barry aptly named the “despair for the world.” Especially during times of trial, it is a blessing to take a moment to pause with children. We are so fortunate

to live in this place and to have this community around us. The gift of spending time with your children each day is something that brings constant hope and a deep sense of reverence. I hope you all enjoyed the quieter week of the Presidents' break together!

This Week in RE:

10:00-11:00: Children's Choir and Games for All Ages

11:00-12:15: HS Youth Group and Intergrade Activity

12:15: Enjoy Coffee Hour, Compliments of RE!



Highlights

RE has been experimenting with how to conduct classes surrounding a holiday break (Presidents' Week) since many travel during this time. As such, the emphasis has been on intergrade activities that unite the

entire group.

On February 19, the HS Youth Group met to make poetry selections for the upcoming Youth Service. Next week they

will bake and select a charity to highlight with the congregation.

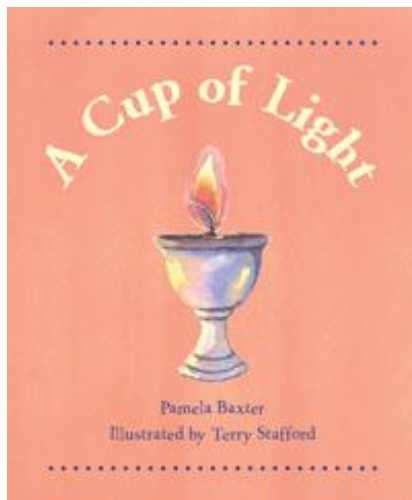
Chalice Making

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. — from "This Little Light of Mine," Hymn 118 in Singing the Living Tradition

The chalice is the unique symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith, shared with Unitarian Universalists everywhere. The younger children engaged in an art project, creating chalices to take home the gift of spirit.

We used repurposed glass yogurt containers and decorated them with shadow shapes and layers of tissue paper, creating a stained-glass effect. Children customized the center with river glass, and tea candles were placed in each.

It was enjoyable to work in a community with one another and see how each child approached the project. Ultimately, we were all left with cherished treasures and warm memories. You can make a chalice at home.



Chalice Activities: Taking it Home

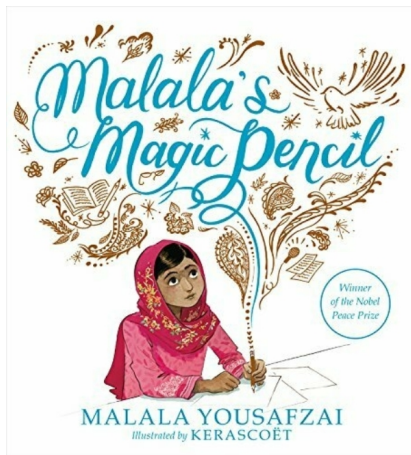
Read a Book

Consider reading [A Cup of Light](#) By Pamela Baxter. This lovely, thought-provoking little book for young children opens the door to exploring the symbol of our UU faith.

A Family Ritual. Before dinner, "light" the chalice your child made. Say words such as, "We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth, and the energy of action." Or light the chalice as part of a bedtime ritual, then "blow it out" together when it is time for bed.

Make One at Home. You likely have items around your house you can use to make and decorate a chalice: candle, cup, empty Altoids tin, glue, felt, markers, stickers, tissue paper, paint, double-sided tape, ribbons, plastic cup, small paper plate and paper bowl, little flower pot & saucer. These might be in your recycling bin: pasta sauce jar, canned veg tin, and may get your creative juices flowing!

Learn More. You can read about the history of the UU chalice on the **UUA website** [HERE](#).



Women's History Month

We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced. — Malala Yousafzai

Every year, March is designated Women's History Month. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions to American history. In 2023, the Women in History Month theme is *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*.

- [Here is a list](#) of 15 children's books celebrating women's achievements.
 - There are many incredible ways to celebrate Women's History Month in NYC. [Timeout New York](#) has a comprehensive list of activities happening in March around the New York.
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