

# Classroom News

December 2021

## Upcoming Events

- Dec 12 All- ages Pageant Service (sign up to participate!)
- Dec 19 - Rescheduled Night Tree Party (held on zoom)
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

For more information:  
<http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/service-descriptions-upcoming-and-recent/>

## Reminders

- Ashley away from Dec 20th until Jan 3rd. Happy holidays!

## What's Ahead

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone and merry mid-winter!

This month we focus on the 4th source of Unitarian Universalism, that our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves. To explore this further here is a short excerpt from the RE curriculum UU Lego Sources.

*This source highlights two of the many religions in the world: Judaism and Christianity. Why do our sources make a special effort to honour them? Well, they are the religions we UU's originally came from. You might call them our "parent religions."*

*And just as parents pass down special advice to their children, these two religions both emphasize and passed down to us something that is called the golden rule. It's the part of the 4th source that says "Love your neighbour as yourself." It's all about treating others the way you would want to be treated.*

Happy holidays!

## December Theme - 4th Source

Our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves.

### Head

Read the attached story *Love is the Golden Rule* with your family.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session16/golden-rule>.

After you have read it, discuss with your family how there are so many ways to say the golden rule, how might you put it into your own words??

### Heart

Colour in the attached drawing and reflect on what love means to you. How does it inform the way you treat people?

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/love-doodle>

If you practice lighting a chalice, use these words by Dawn Skjei Cooley

*We light our chalice this morning,*

*grateful for the love that we experience in this beloved community.*

*May the flame light the way for all who seek such abundance.*

### Hands

Join Beacon's annual all ages pageant happening on zoom Dec 12th. Our tale this year, adapted from the story by Lemony Snicket, and told by a core group of narrators and actors, is about an irate latke at Hanukkah that escapes from being cooked in a hot frying pan. During his escape he runs into various Christmas characters who are unfamiliar with the customs of Hanukkah. Come and join the fun!

Join us on zoom for the annual Night Tree Party. We will be crafting popcorn and cranberry chains, reading the story Night Tree by Eve Bunting and singing along to some classic holiday carols. For more information email Ashley.

# Love Is the Golden Rule

Part of Love Will Guide Us (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide>)

By Ilene Cooper (<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/ilene-cooper>)

*Golden Rule versions from the book The Golden Rule.*

Maya was eight years old and had rules to follow all day long. At school there were special rules.

*(Leader: Briefly ask the children for examples of school rules.)*

At school Maya had to raise their hand to talk. They could only eat if it was lunch or snack time. They needed a bathroom pass if they wanted to go to the bathroom. And, they were not allowed to copy anyone else's work.

Maya also had special rules at home.

*(Leader: Ask for examples of rules at home. Adapt the following sentence to reflect their contributions.)*

Maya had to go to bed at eight o'clock. They were never allowed to hit their younger sibling (even if their sibling hit first). They had to eat vegetables. And, they could watch television for half an hour every day.

There were also special rules at their congregation.

*(Leader: Briefly ask children for examples of rules in your congregation.)*

Maya was not allowed to run during coffee hour. They had to talk in an indoor voice. And, they were expected to be friendly and welcoming to everyone. Maya was sick and tired of all those rules! One day, Maya decided they wanted just *one* rule to follow—one very important rule, to take the place of all of those other rules.

Maya asked their Uncle Guna what he thought was the most important rule of all. He told them that in his religion, Hinduism, it is said, "This is the sum of duty: to do nothing to others which would cause them pain."

*(Leader: Briefly ask children what sorts of things someone would do if they follow this rule.)*

Maya asked their next-door-neighbor, Claire, what they thought was the most important rule of all. Claire told Maya that a teacher from the Buddhist religion had said, "Do not do to others what would hurt you."

*(Leader: Briefly ask children what sorts of things someone would do if they follow this rule. Note: It's okay if the children give the same responses they gave to the previous question.)*

Maya asked their best friend, Adam, what they thought was the most important rule. Adam told Maya that at their Jewish synagogue they learned that Hebrew scripture teaches, "You shall love thy neighbor as thyself." Another friend, Maria, told Maya they learned the same rule at her Catholic church.

*(Leader: Briefly ask children what sorts of things someone would do if they follow this rule.)*

Maya asked their friend, Malik, what they thought was the most important rule. Malik said that in their religion, Islam, people say, "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."

*(Leader: Briefly ask children what sorts of things someone would do if they follow this rule.)*

Maya asked their Uncle Greg what he thought was the most important rule. Uncle Greg said that when he does pagan magic he always follows the rule, "An ye harm none, do what you will." He told Maya this means he cannot do anything that would hurt another living being.

*(Leader: Briefly ask children what sorts of things someone would do if they follow this rule.)*

Maya thought about all of the answers they had heard. Maya wrote them down, one at a time.

"This is the sum of duty: to do nothing to others which would cause them pain." (Hinduism)

"Do not do to others what would hurt you." (Buddhism)

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Jewish and Christian)

"None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." (Islam)

"An ye harm none, do what you will." (Neo-pagan)

On Sunday morning Maya took the list of rules to their Unitarian Universalist congregation. Maya showed it to the minister, Rev. Marta, and asked Rev. Marta which rule she thought was most important.

Rev. Marta said, "I notice that these rules are all very similar. They are different versions of a rule some people call 'the Golden Rule.' What do you think is the most important rule?"

*(Leader: Invite children to answer this question.)*

Maya paused for a moment. Then Maya said slowly, "I think love is the Golden Rule. When we are loving, then we do not hurt other people or cause them pain, we wish for others what we wish for ourselves, and we love our neighbors as ourselves."

"That sounds like the most important rule to me!" Rev. Marta agreed. "Love is the Golden Rule!"

PREVIOUS: Taking It Home

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session16/169071.shtml>)

UP: Session 16: Love Is the Golden Rule

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session16>)

NEXT: Handout 1: Golden Rule Pledge Star

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session16/169079.shtml>)

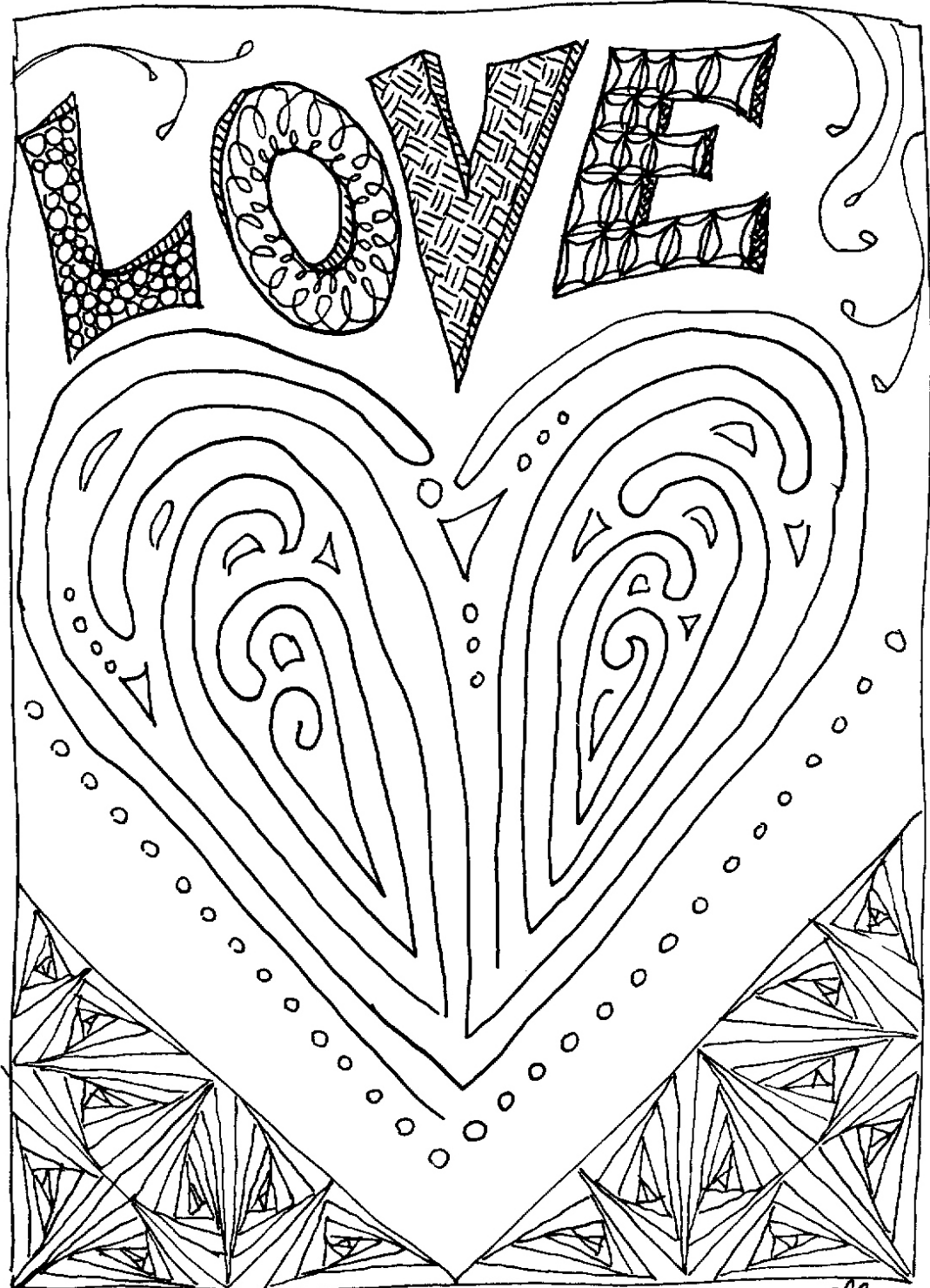
Download all of Love Will Guide Us (Word) ([https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus\\_column.doc](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus_column.doc)) (PDF ([https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus\\_column.pdf](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus_column.pdf)) ) to edit or print.

## About the Author

**Ilene Cooper** (<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/ilene-cooper>)

For more information contact [religiouseducation@uua.org](mailto:religiouseducation@uua.org).





cll