

# Classroom News

November 2021

## Upcoming Events

- Nov 28th - CUC National Sunday Service (Led by youth & young adults)

*More information here:*  
<https://cuc.ca/events/national-sunday-service/1638104400/163811600/>

- Dec 12 All- ages Pageant Service  
*(sign up to participate!)*

## Reminders

- For more details on CYRE programming I will also be following up through the email newsletter. Please keep an eye out for more information and upcoming events.

## What's Ahead

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone, happy November.

This month we focus on the 5th source of Unitarian Universalism, that our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from Humanist teaching of reason and the discoveries of science. I've included on the back page some activities that allow families to explore further with this source.

As mentioned previously, we are also exploring the elements. This month we are invited to reflect on the element of air. What is your response or relationship to air? Does it bring up memories of breathing deeply, going for a walk, jumping in an air castle? When reflecting on air what comes up for you?

How might you connect the themes of air and the 5th source? How do we use our breath, our voice to explore and discover? To share truth?

Happy exploring!

## November Theme - 5th Source

Our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from the use of reason and the discoveries of science

### Head

Read the story *Dinosaur Bones in New Jersey* with your family. You can find the story here <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session3/dinosaur>. After reading it, discuss with your family what you might do when presented with new evidence that may challenge what you believe to be true. How might you use reason to make decisions and test your beliefs?

### Heart

Colour in the attached drawing, also found here <https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/birthday-dinosaur-coloring-page/> and reflect on what motivates you to help other people and make the world a better place.

If you practice lighting a chalice, use these words by Josh, Prudence, & Percival Robern with your family:

*We are all flames.*

*When we gather hand in hand,  
our church, our community, our home*

*We inspire*

*We celebrate*

*We come together*

*Sharing our light of hope for our shared future.*

### 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!

With you family, take turns picking a favourite object from your house, and describe it to the group without saying what it is. Can anyone guess what it is? Show the object after each person has had a chance to guess. How did you use your reason to decide the answer?

## Dinosaur Bones in New Jersey

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

By Gail Forsyth-Vail (<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/gail-forsyth-vail>)

About two hundred years ago, lots of people in North America and in Europe were discovering all kinds of wondrous things in the ground. They found coal to burn for fuel, iron for making machinery, nickel for creating tools and candlesticks and other useful items. They found marl, a grey, clay-like substance full of calcium carbonate, garden lime, which made wonderful fertilizer. Those who owned the pits where such items were located counted themselves lucky and hired workers to dig up those resources and bring them to market to sell.

Diggers, especially those working in marl pits, found interesting things stuck in the thick, grey substance—bits of seashell, pieces of bone, and gigantic skulls that bore a resemblance to the small lizards that now ran in the fields. When they brought those curiosities home to show their children and neighbors, people were fascinated. It was clear that the marl pits had once been at the bottom of the ocean. They concluded that the skulls and bones must be left over from an ancient flood described in the Bible. The Bible story told of how all creatures, except for those in Noah's ark, had drowned. Surely such strange bones could only have come from that ancient flood!

But there were those who realized that something didn't quite fit with the flood story. They collected specimens—and wondered.

Let's move forward in time to 1839 in Haddonfield, New Jersey, William Hopkins hired workers to dig up marl in a stream bed in his backyard. As they dug, they cast aside shells and bits of bone. What was really important was removing the rich grey clay and getting to market to be sold. And then they encountered something extraordinary in the marl pit! They found a skeleton, complete except for the skull, of a giant lizard-like creature, a creature as tall as a house! The workers told Hopkins about their discovery. "Leave it be and dig around it," was his reply.

Three years later, a scientist in England looked at the pieces of bone he had collected from marl pits in his area and came forth with an astonishing theory. He concluded that the bits of bone proved that there were once great lizards—"dinosaurs" that roamed the earth. "Impossible!" "What folly!" "You have too big an imagination!" People all over the world criticized the new idea. According to the Bible, God created all species in the same week, about six thousand years ago. Giant lizards were nowhere mentioned in the Bible, so *they must not have existed*.

The debate raged between those who thought that dinosaurs might have once roamed the earth and those who thought such an idea nonsense. Meanwhile, the skeleton remained in the marl pit in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

For twenty years, William Hopkins had a giant lizard skeleton the size of a house in a marl pit in his back yard, and he never gave it a second thought. Until one day, when he invited his friend William Foulke over for dinner. Foulke was a collector of fossils, small bits of bone and shell, and Hopkins wanted very much to impress him. He told the story of the skeleton in the backyard over dinner that night in 1858. Foulke wasted no time. He was back the next day to view the find.

There it was in the marl pit- proof of the existence of dinosaurs. It was the first nearly complete skeleton to be found anywhere on earth. Its discovery made news worldwide!

Foulke arranged for workers to remove the skeleton from the pit and to exhibit the creature—named *hadrosaurus foulkii*—at the Philadelphia Museum of Natural History.

The existence of dinosaurs had been proven—and the race to find out more about these mysterious creatures had begun!

PREVIOUS: Taking It Home

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session3/168245.shtml>)

UP: Session 3: We Love to Discover

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session3>)

NEXT: Handout 1: Tree of Life Coloring Sheet

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session3/168253.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



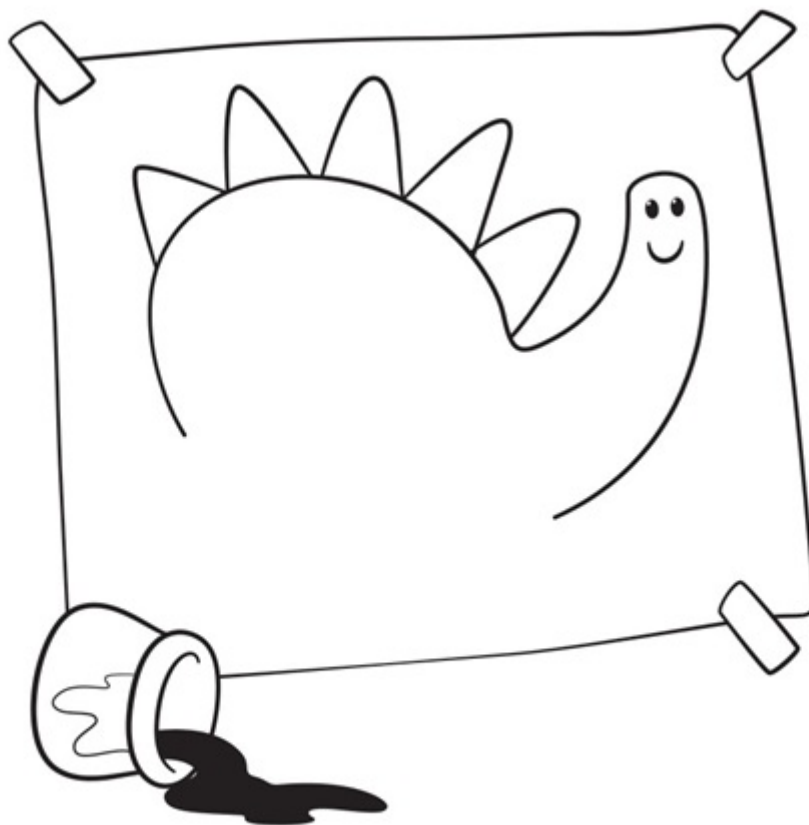
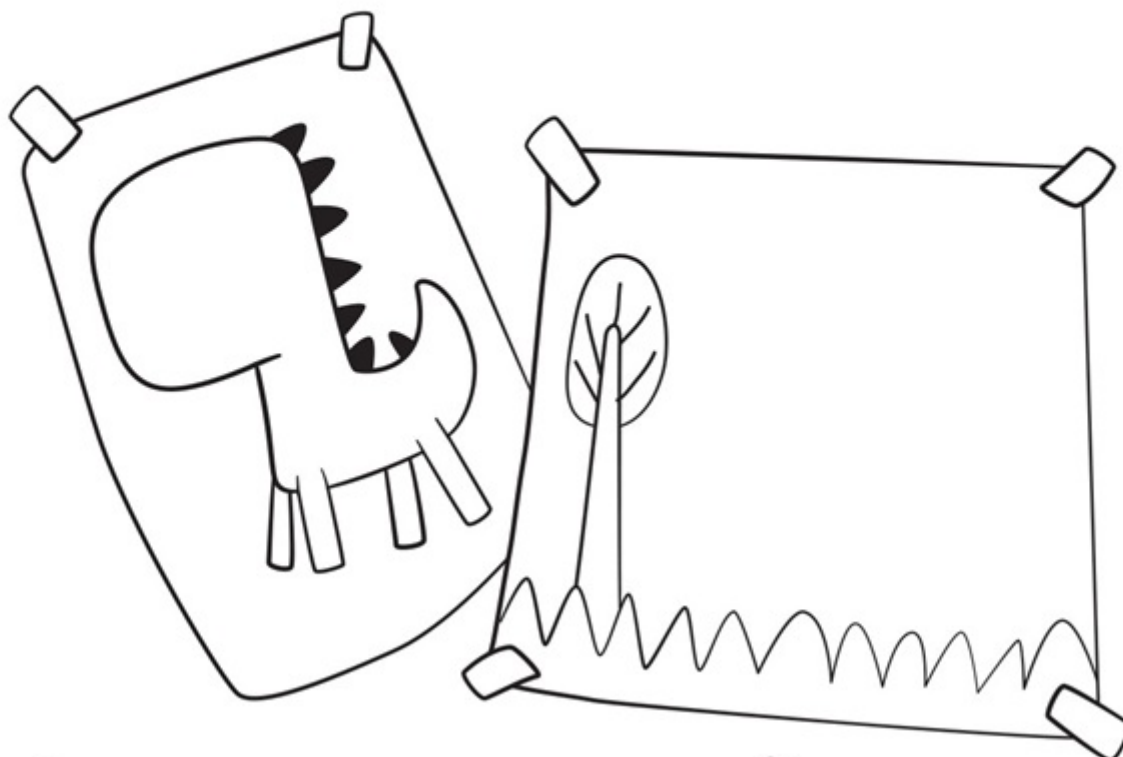
**Gail Forsyth-Vail** (<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/gail-forsyth-vail>)

Gail Forsyth-Vail is a Credentialed Religious Educator, Master Level, who served congregations for twenty-two years before serving on the UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff from 2008-2019. She is the author of a number of faith development curricula and resources....

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Help finish the drawings.



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