

Classroom News

January 2022

Upcoming Events

- Jan 9 - Ashley back from vacation
- Feb 6 - CUC Sharing the Faith Service
- Feb 21 - Family Day

Reminders

- Ashley's last day is Feb 28th, 2022

What's Ahead

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone,

It is with mixed emotions that I share my resignation from my position as Director of Religious Exploration. I have made the decision to step back from this role in order to take some time to rest and refocus my energy. With that in mind, my last day will be February 28th.

I first started working with Beacon in the fall of 2016, which means I've been with Beacon for 5 and a half years. Over all these years I have truly enjoyed getting to know you and have appreciated the opportunity to work alongside many of you. I want to extend a special note of thanks to Bette Goode who has supported me all this time in the work of religious exploration, to the families whom I have had the pleasure of supporting, and to all the members, staff and congregational leaders who have partnered in this important work over the years.

I have been working closely with the Board on a transition plan with the goal of ensuring the smoothest transition possible. As it stands, the RE monthly mail outs will still be sent out and posted on the Beacon website from now until the end of June, as these will still be a great way for families to engage with the monthly content. Thanks to those that will make this possible.

And many thanks to you all, I'm wishing Beacon the best as you explore what's next.

January Theme - 3rd Source

Our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from the ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's religions.

Head

Read the attached story *The Rebirth of the Sun* with your family.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session11/168878.shtml>.

After you read it, discuss with your family what it might be like if it was always dark without sun. Or always sunny, without darkness?

Heart

Colour in the attached drawing <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/chalice-sunburst> and reflect on what gifts from nature are you grateful for.

If you practice lighting a chalice, use these words from Judith L Quarles' A Community of Faith.

As we light our chalice today,

let us remember that we are part of a great community of faith.

May this dancing flame inspire us to fill our lives with the Unitarian Universalist ideals of love, justice and truth.

Hands

Supervised by an adult, follow the instructions from this overview

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session11/alternate-activity-3> to make your own candles. Once ready for use, light your candle and discuss with your family why do you suppose so many religions have candles as part of their holidays? How does it feel to have a candle in the darkness?

Tapestry of Faith (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry>) : **Love Will Guide Us**

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide>) : **A Program for Grades 2-3 that Applies the Wisdom of the Six Sources to the Big Questions**

The Rebirth of the Sun

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

From CIRCLE ROUND by Starhawk and Diane Baker and Anne Hill, copyright (C) 2000 by Miriam Simas, Anne Hill and Diane Baker. Used by permission of Batman Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Circle round, and I'll tell you a story about when the sun was born again ...

It was the middle of winter, and the sun had grown very old.

All year long the sun had worked very hard, rising and setting day after day. All year long the sun had fed everybody on earth, shining and shining, giving energy to the trees and the flowers and the grasses so they could grow and feed the animals and birds and insects and people.

All year the sun's gravity held tight to the spinning ball of the earth and the twirling ball of the moon and the eight other whirling planets as they traveled around and around and around, until the poor sun was dizzy watching it all.

Now the poor tired sun could barely make it up in the morning, and after a very short time, needed to sleep again. So the days grew shorter, and the nights grew longer, until the day was so short it was hardly worth getting up for.

Night felt sorry for the sun.

"Come to my arms and rest, child," she said. "After all, I am your mother. You were born out of my darkness, billions of years ago, and you will return to me when all things end. Let me cradle you now, as I shelter every galaxy and star in the universe."

So Night wrapped her great arms around the sun, and the night was very long indeed.

"Why does the dark go on so long?" asked children all over the earth. "Won't the sun ever come back again?"

"The sun is very tired," the old ones said. "But maybe, if you children say thank you for all the things the sun does for us, the light may return in the morning."

The children sang songs to the sun. They thought about all the things the sun gave them.

(Leader: Ask participants what they think the children might have thanked the sun for. Allow some responses. Then, resume the story.)

"Thank you for growing the lettuces and the corn and the rice and the wheat," they said.

"Thank you for growing the trees of the forests and the seaweed in the oceans and the krill that feeds the whales. Thank you for stirring the air and making winds that bring the rain."

Every time a child said thank you, the sun began to feel a little warmer, a little brighter.

Wrapped safely in the arms of Night, the sun grew younger and younger.

At last the children had to go to bed. "We will stay up and wait for the sun to rise again" the old ones said.

"Can't we stay up, too?" the children asked.

"You can try, but you will get too sleepy," the old ones said. "But you can each light a candle, because all fire is a spark of the sun's fire. Put your candle in a very safe place, and let it keep vigil for you as you sleep and dream of sunrise."

So the children lit their candles and put them in very safe places, and each flame was a little spark of the sun's fire. And the sun peeped out from between the arms of Night, and saw all the little fires, and began to feel warmer and brighter and younger still.

Early in the morning, the old ones woke the children. Together they climbed a high hill and faced to the east, the direction of sunrise. They sang songs to the sun and ran around trying to keep warm. They waited and waited to see what dawn would bring.

The sky began to turn from black to indigo to blue. Slowly the sky grew light. A golden glow crept over the horizon. Night opened her great arms, and in a burst of brightness, the sun appeared, new and strong and shining.

For in the long night the sun had rested well and grown young from the songs and the thanks of the children, young as a brand-new baby, born out of Night once more.

Everybody cheered, and the children jumped up and down.

"The sun has returned! The sun is reborn!" the people cried. And they danced and sang to celebrate the birth of a new day, and then went home to breakfast.

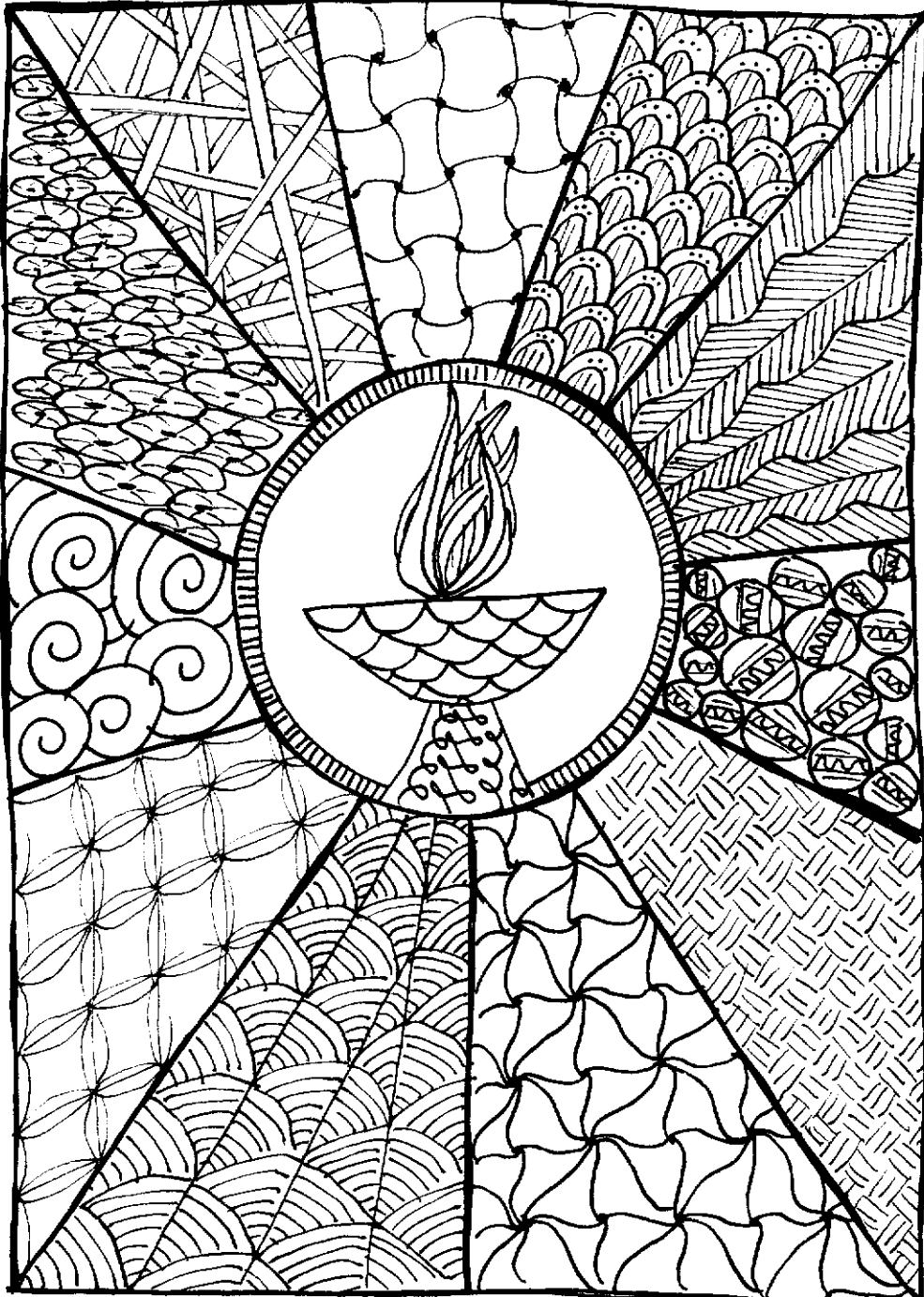
PREVIOUS: Taking It Home
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session11/168874.shtml>)

UP: Session 11: Love and Gratitude
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session11>)

NEXT: Find Out More
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session11/168879.shtml>)

Download all of Love Will Guide Us (Word) (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)) to edit or print.

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