

# Spirit Play Session 1

## September & October

### Adult leaders:

Susan & Kevin Whitehurst

Molly Gareis

Amaya Hain

**NOTE TO PARENTS:** Following each lesson, the Storyteller asks some or all of the “Wondering Questions” of the children. This is the opportunity for them to explore and share their interpretation of the lesson. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. Some of these might be appropriate for further conversation at home about the lesson.

### 9/16 UU Ceremonies: Water Communion

This will be an explanation of the UU ceremony of a water communion, to further enhance the children’s understanding of the ceremony in which the whole church participated the previous Sunday. The children will have their own water communion ceremony in which they share stories of the summer travels/adventures and symbolically return their attentions to the community of our Faith Development group.

### Wondering Questions

I wonder how all this water came to be?

I wonder where all this water comes from?

I wonder if it comes from one place or many different places?

I wonder how your water is different than the others?

I wonder how your water is the same as the others?

I wonder what happens inside the pitcher when we mix all the waters?

I wonder how much new water we could add and still have the same water?

I wonder what would happen if someone new joined our class this year?

I wonder if we could separate all the waters and give them back to each person?

### 9/23 The Flaming Chalice Lesson

This lesson, which introduces idea of the chalice (which will be further explored in later lessons), helps the children understand that *anyone* could be a member of our diverse community and that it is our principles (called “promises” in Spirit Play lingo) that help us to be successfully and peacefully in community together. The promises, which will also be a focus this year, are linked to colors for a pneumonic memory device:

*Red--Respect All People (or Beings)*

*Orange--Offer Fair and Kind Treatment to All*

*Yellow--Yearn to accept and Learn about ourselves, others, and Mystery*

*Green--Grow by Exploring what is true and right in life*

*Blue--Believe in our ideas and Act on them*

*Indigo--Insist on Freedom, Justice, and Peace for all beings*

*Violet--Value our home, Earth, that we share with all living things*

**Wondering Questions** (not all will be asked in class)

- I wonder if you have seen (chalice) this anywhere else in our church?
- I wonder what part of it you like best?
- I wonder what part is most important?
- I wonder how big this community could really be?
- I wonder who is in this community?
- I wonder if the people in the community have names?
- I wonder how it feels to be in this community?
- I wonder where you are in this community?
- I wonder if you have ever made a promise?
- I wonder what happens when you break a promise?
- I wonder if you have ever come close to the Mystery?
- I wonder if a promise is different than a wish?
- I wonder if there is one promise that is more important than the others?
- I wonder if there is one promise that we could remove and still live together peacefully?
- I wonder what would happen if the promises weren't here?
- I wonder what would happen if someone new came to join this community?
- I wonder if you have ever felt the Spirit of Love and Mystery?

**9/30 History of the UU Chalice: Charles Joy and Hans Duetsch**

The children will hear the true story of the Unitarian minister and the man so taken with the work of this minister helping people escape persecution during World War II that he helped create the symbol we associate with our church today: the chalice.

**Wondering Questions:**

- I wonder if any of you have a special chalice at your home?
- I wonder which chalice symbol you like best?
- I wonder what people might have thought during the war when they saw the flaming chalice?
- I wonder if there are other symbols that make you think of love and caring for other people?

**10/7 The Flaming Chalice Story: Jean Pierre**

This fictional story of two children and their grandmother (refugees) during World War II and the help they received from Unitarian Service Committee after recognizing the chalice symbol on the USC truck.

**Wondering Questions:**

- I wonder what the chalice flame could really be?
- I wonder how it feels to have to leave your home behind?
- I wonder how it feels to be welcomed somewhere else?
- I wonder how Jean-Pierre and his family felt when they first saw the truck?
- I wonder how they felt when they saw the flaming chalice symbol?

### **10/14 General Promises Lesson**

The way in which we try to live our lives, represented as the Rainbow Path of our Unitarian Universalism community, is presented through this overview of all the “promises,” with their associated colors (represented by colored triangles) and small items to help the children remember which color goes with each promise. Red promise = gift; orange promise = heart; yellow = flame; green = flower; blue = bell; indigo = dove; violet = earth.

### **Wondering Questions**

I wonder which promise you like the best?  
I wonder how it feels when we keep a promise?  
I wonder what happens when we keep a promise?  
I wonder if it is easy or hard to keep a promise?  
I wonder what happens when a promise is broken?  
I wonder what here is most important?  
I wonder how it feels to be on this rainbow path?

### **10/21 Explore and Feast**

The last Sunday of each session will be an opportunity for the children to gather informally as a community, finish any “work” (exploration of the lessons through arts and crafts mediums) from previous lessons and have a “feast” (a ritual sharing of a snack).

10/28 NO Children’s Faith Development: Children in the service for Day of the Dead service.