

Welcome to the Faith Development Office Webinar



Before we get started.....

Please mute your microphone
and turn off your camera.

Find the Meeting Chat box and
introduce yourself.



“Housekeeping”

Audio problem? Mute audio on your computer. Call in by phone.

We’ll have time for questions at the end.

Recorded webinar, slides, and transcript
will be online:

www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars



Welcome!

Implementing Themes in Religious Education

May, 2016



Presenters

Dayna Edwards, Paint Branch, MD

Leah Purcell, Albany, NY

Robin Slaw, Paramus, NJ

Annie Scott, Golden, CO

Host

Pat Kahn, Faith Development Office

Tech Support

Alicia LeBlanc, Faith Development Office



Opening Words, by Robin Slaw

We light this chalice to remember that we are all made of stardust.

We carry the light of stars within us.

We light this chalice to remember those who have come before us and those who will follow us.

We carry the light of stars within us.

We light this chalice to remember those who inspire us to help heal the world.

We carry the light of stars within us.

We light this chalice to remember to share our light with the world.

We carry the light of stars within us.





Dayna Edwards
Paint Branch, MD



What is the goal of theme-based ministry?





Don't have total buy-in yet?

- Use themes in your sphere of influence
- Use the UU Liturgical Calendar





How could you make some of the things you already do more intentionally theme-based?

**Worship is a playful
rehearsal of the world
we hope to create.**

—Rev. Jacqui Lewis





Leah Purcell
Albany, NY



Family Chapel OOS

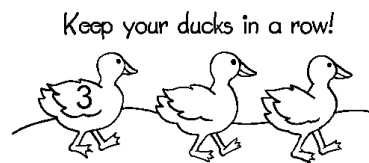
Our Seven Principles



EVERYONE is important!



To be fair and kind!



Keep your ducks in a row!

It's fun to learn together.



Hop to it!

We are free
to search for the truth.



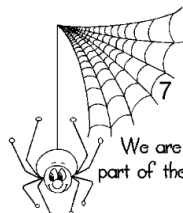
Speak your mind!

VOTE
for
what
is
right.

We need to fly free



to work for
peace and justice!



We are all
part of the web.
Take good care of it!

Animal UU Principles Clipart by Andrea Lerner



Lord Shiva

Family Chapel – April 25

CREATION – making something

Entering Songs: #188 - Come, Come Whoever You Are
#389 – Gathered Here

Ringin' the Chime and Lightin' the Chalice

Announcements

Breathing Meditation

Joys and Sorrows –blessing the water

Offertory – #402 From You I Receive - all

The Potter's Wish –What if you could make something that's perfect?

Extinguishing the flame

Song #118 – *This Little Light of Mine*

Watering the Chapel Tree



UUUs in Action Bulletin Board





The Sunday Sparkler – weekly news update for families with children in Sunday school –Feb 14

Taking it Home – Conversation Starters about Sunday School Today

- Red, Orange and Yellow Groups – What game did you play today? What did you think of the big jar of change? Do you know what the money is for? (The Sheridan Prep Playground)
- Green, Blue and Violet – Tell me about the fundraiser on March 6. Why does Sheridan Prep need help raising money for a playground?
- 7th, 9th Graders – Which speaker did you find most interesting? Why? Can you see yourself in any of the roles in the service?

Theme of the month: Desire
The thematic focus for the children today was on our desire to help others. By working together as a team, a group can accomplish more than an individual. And things that are worth doing take time to achieve.

Background Info on Sheridan Prep Academy and the Playground Funds

Our congregation has a plan of what we should be doing – called the Strategic Plan. After the edition to the building with Emerson Hall was finished, the adults wondered what they should be doing as a congregation. One thing they decided to include in the Strategic Plan was that they should be working with our neighbors,

especially the families and children in Albany – to support them because many of them have needs greater than our own.

Sheridan Prep is an Albany public school – not a charter school – a few blocks from Albany UU that services children in Kindergarten – 6th grade. It's a new school building, but still, it does not have as many nice things as some other schools. Most of the families of the school work hard, many of them work long hours, they but still don't have much extra resources. A few years ago adults in our congregation, including me (Leah) and Chuck Manning, Martha Musser and Lois Griffin went to the school to talk to the principal, Mrs. Gayle, about what the school was like and was there anything that Albany UU could do to support them. Mrs. Gayle loves her students and wants the best for them. They decided that it would be really helpful if some adults from Albany UU could volunteer in the classrooms to help the teachers. And that's what a bunch of Albany UU's started to do and continue to do. The volunteers, the teachers, and the students all benefit from this work.

Then last year, Martha and Lois had some more meetings with Mrs. Gayle. Was there anything else Albany UU could do for the school? Yes! The plan for the new school building never included a playground for older kids. There is playground equipment for the little kids, but the kids in about 2nd grade play with things like balls and jump rope for their recess.

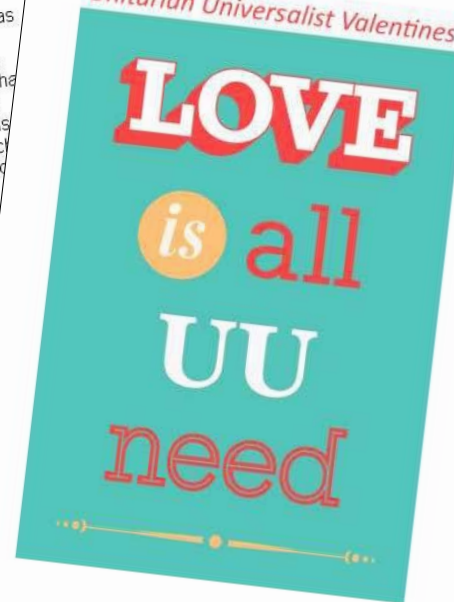
But wouldn't it be nice if Sheridan Prep had some big-kid equipment to play on?

The Children Want to Help Too

In Family Chapel this fall, we talked about where to donate the collection this year and the children voted to give a little bit of it to Albany UU and most of it to the Sheridan Prep Playground fund.

Last month, the children in the 3rd-6th grade groups talked about fundraising for Sheridan Prep during a Justice Jam. They asked the Board and got permission to raise money at Albany UU. They are planning to host a baked good sale and soup mix sale at Coffee Hour on March 6. Today they made prepared some soup bags and will be talking to their parents about bringing in baked goods on March 6.

Unitarian Universalist Valentines



Evening Meditation on Desire

I think again on my small adventures, my fears

These small things that seemed so big

And all the pressing things I had to get and to reach

And yet there is only one great thing,

The only thing

To live to see the great day that dawns

And the light that fills the world.

- From an Inuit song

Next Week, Jan 21

IN THE SERVICE:

"Cultivating Healthy Desire" by Rev. Sam – Negative, destructive desires give the word a bad connotation. Lust, craving and avarice are not the only kinds of desires. There are also very healthy desires we need more of in the world.

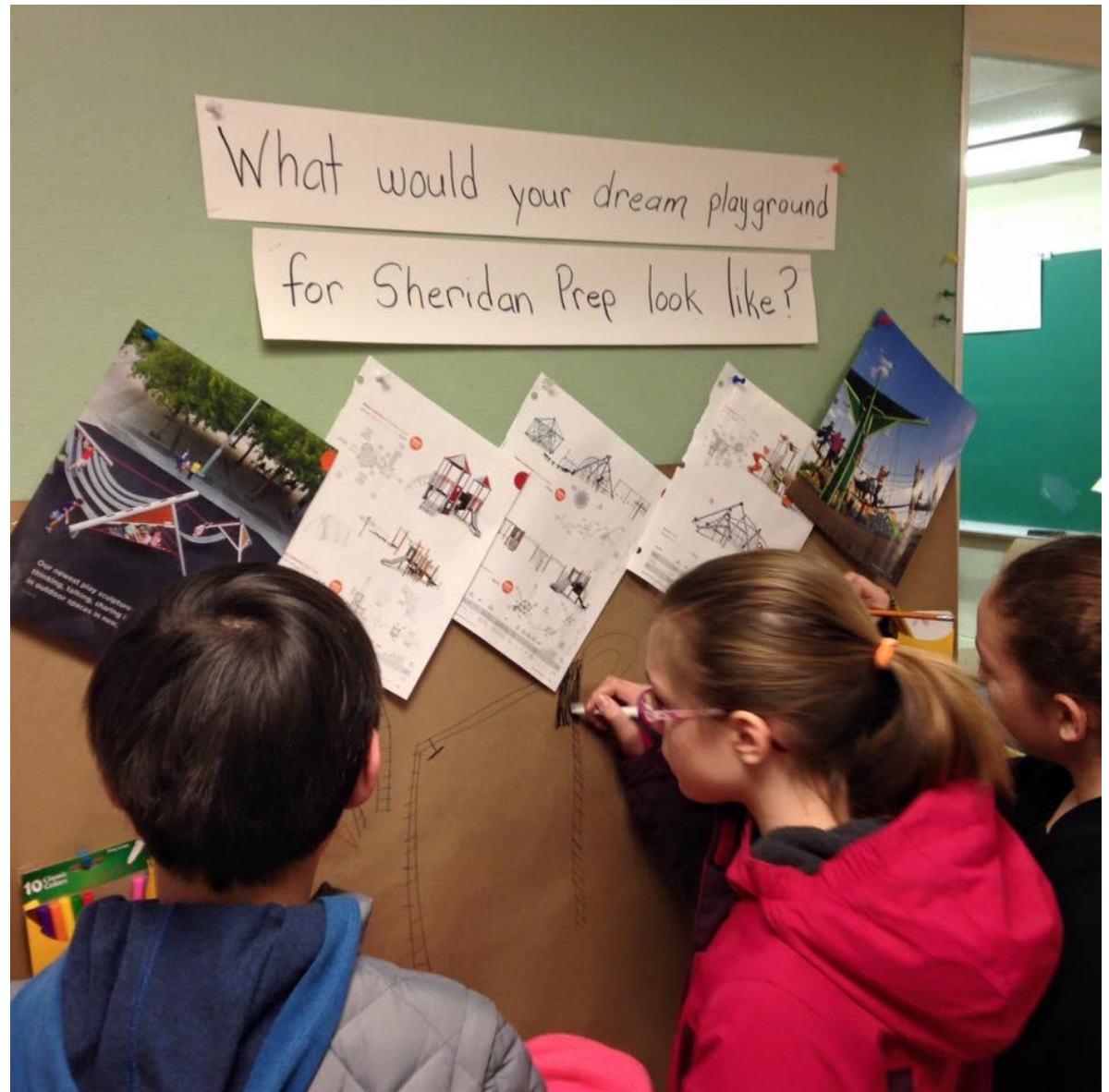
Music: Albany UU Choir

IN SUNDAY SCHOOL;

- Family Chapel for children in Pre-k through 6th grade. The story is about someone who receives 2 party invitations for the same day and how they decide (or don't decide) which one to attend. Follow up activities will include spirit boards, like soul collage, from magazine clippings and exploring one's heart's desire.
 - The 7th-9th graders activities will include discussion about today's "This I Believe" service.
- Parent Support Group 10:30 – 11:15; Rm B-5 on the theme of "heart connections"



Interactive Bulletin Board





Robin Slaw
Paramus, NJ



Aligning adult study
and worship with
children's study and
worship.

Take ideas home for
Full Week Faith.



Family Newsletters



- Column on the theme
- Family Spiritual Practices
- Book and movie suggestions for children and youth
- Congregational news



Monthly Bookmarks

- Morning questions
- Evening follow-up
- Adults use it, too!
- Partner with other religious educators

Blessing May

Morning Affirmations

Week 1:
Today keep your words kind and helpful.
Core Message:
Your words can be a blessing.

Week 2:
Thank someone who has "mothered" you.
Core message:
Many have blessed our lives and helped "give birth" to ourselves

Week 3:
Say 100 blessings today!
Core message:
Counting our blessings chases away the negative.

Week 4:
Pay it forward today!
Core message:
Share your blessings with others .

Week 5:
Find a way to bless the world today!
Core message:
Volunteering means we bless the world.

Designed by Robin Slaw and Starr Austin

Blessing May

Evening Follow-ups

Week 1:
How were your words kind and helpful today?

Week 2:
Who did you remember and thank today?

Week 3:
How many blessings were you able to say today?

Week 4:
How were you able to pay it forward today?

Week 5:
How were you able to volunteer today?

Designed by Robin Slaw and Starr Austin



Classroom Lessons on Sundays

PreK/K

- schedule as possible
- Chalice Lighting

Grades 1-5

- Schedule to match theme
- Chalice Lighting

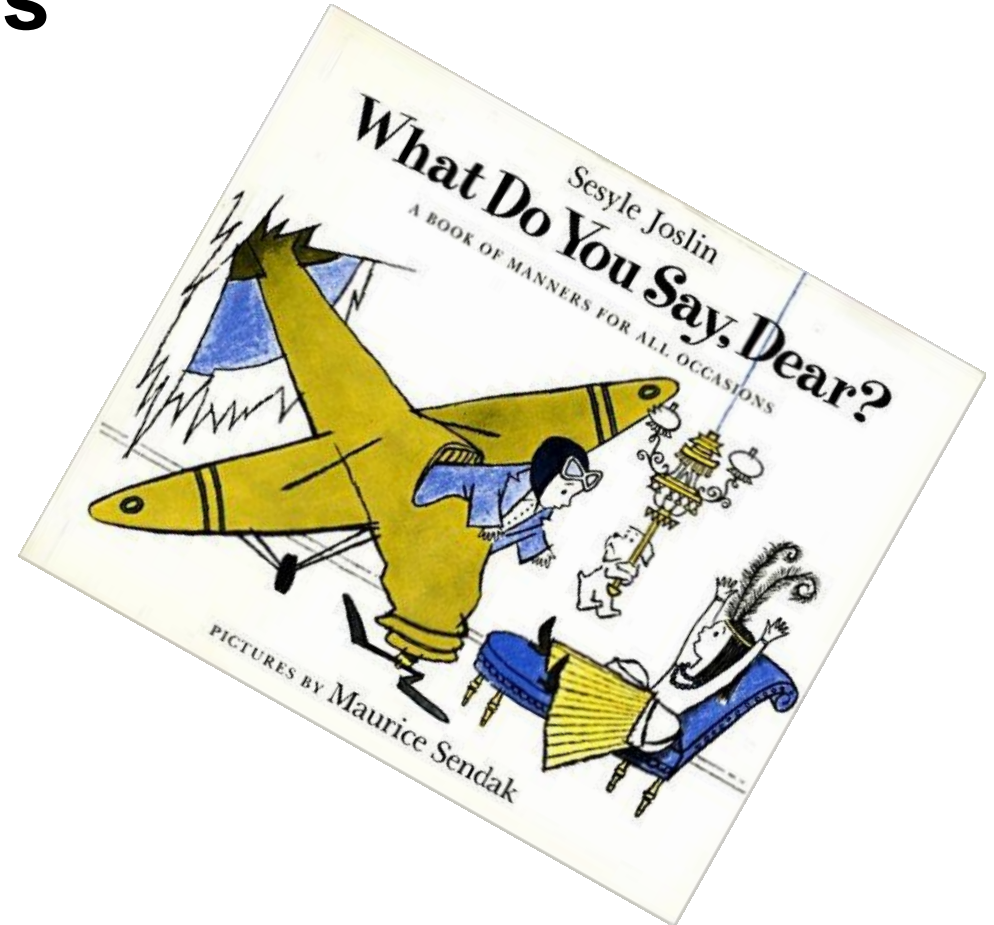
Building Bridges & Coming of Age

- Did not try to match theme
- Chalice Lighting



Time for All Ages

- Chose stories first
- Minister frequently built sermon from story



Family Worship



- Implemented monthly family worship
 - Holidays as multigens
 - Other months as family worship in second location
- More casual worship
 - Movement
 - Discussion
 - Interactive
 - Longer stories, shorter reflections/sermons



Order of Service

May 8, 2016—Mamas Day

Joys and Concerns



Offertory Song

I Am Saying Thank You

by Judy Fjell

I am saying thank you
I am saying thank you
I am saying thank you
Thank you is my practice



A People of Blessing

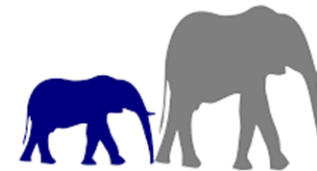
Remembering Our Mamas of All Kinds

Check In

This morning we heard a story about all kinds of families and all kinds of mamas. Who is your person who you love and who loves you and who helps make the world better?

Would you share a memory of that person, your Mama?

What are some of the ways you might thank your special Mama today?



Closing Song

traditional

May the long-time sun shine upon you
All love surround you
May the pure light within you
Guide your way on

Hands-on Projects



Inconsistent participation

- Most successful when introduced as part of the service
- Less successful when independent of worship



Ribbon Grotto



January's Month of Resistance art project

Join us each Sunday in the Grotto as we explore areas of resistance in our lives. Based on an art project created by Meg Saligman in Philadelphia to celebrate the visit of Pope Francis, this project will continue throughout the month of January.

Throughout time and across all cultures, a knot has been used to symbolize tension and struggle. The undoing of a knot symbolizes freedom from these burdens - a release of pressure. In the tradition of Mary, Undoer of Knots, Pope Francis' favorite artwork, you can visit the grotto in our sanctuary to add or remove knots, symbolizing their personal struggles and sharing the burdens of others.

Ribbons and markers will be available to use to write about the areas in your life where you are experiencing resistance, tension or struggle. Write your statement on a ribbon, and tie it onto one of the grotto trees. Find another ribbon to unknot, say a prayer or send some energy to that person's struggle, and weave the ribbon into our art project hanging in the grotto.

Tie a knot, untie a knot. Work through resistance, share the weight, and send your energy into the world in positive ways.

Facebook Participation



Occasional use of Facebook for daily posts on the theme.

Encourages congregants to apply theme each day (Full Week Faith)

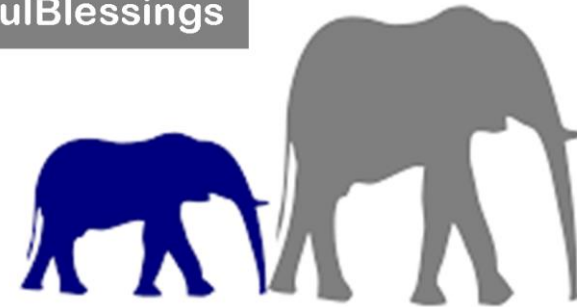
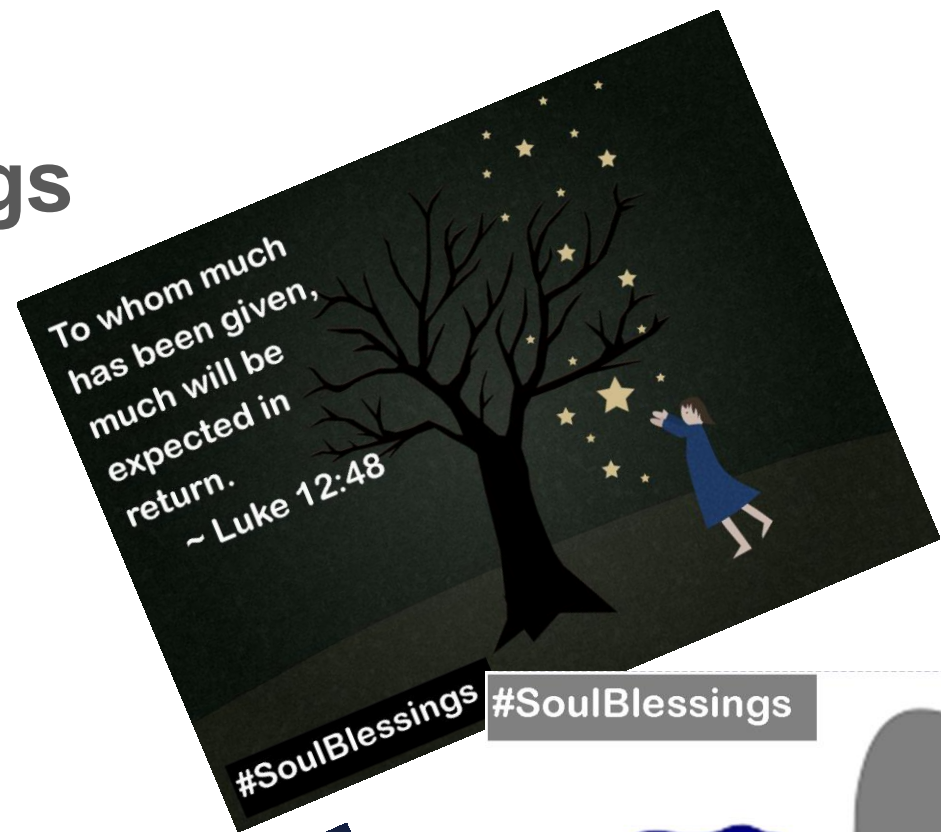


Daily Blessings

Schedule ahead of time

Encourage sharing & responding

Higher engagement



**You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?
Choose to bless the world.
~ Rebecca Ann Parker**



Annie Scott

Golden, CO



Jefferson Unitarian Church



Jefferson Unitarian Church, teacher meeting





Monthly **Family Reflection** based on the theme; same basic format each month:

- Opening Words
- Chalice Lighting
- Activity
- Reflection (5 each month)
- Unison Closing Prayer
- Family Facebook Page Sharing

May, 2016 Blessing:

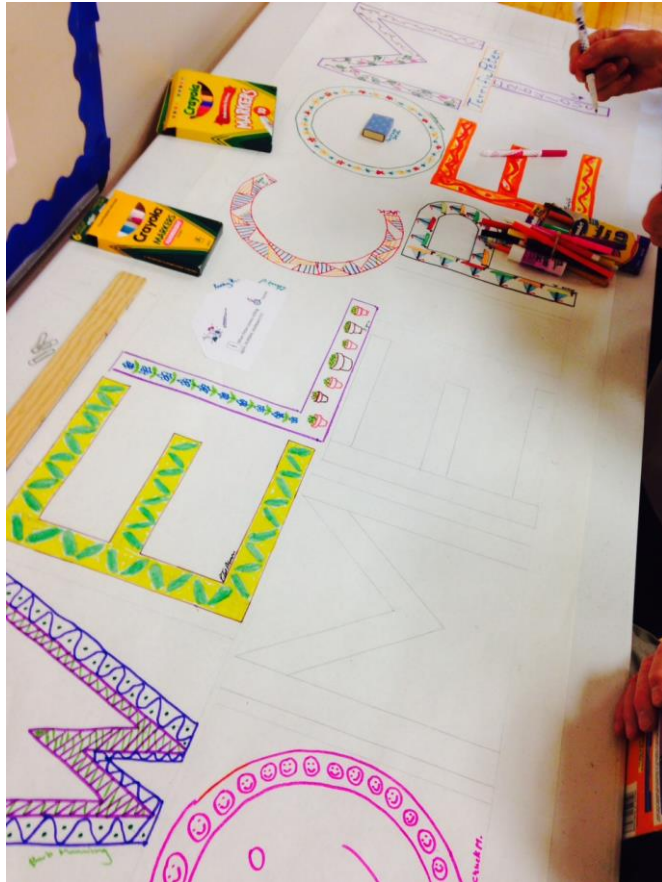
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4pGCOKz0RN4SDVUMVhVVEZ6T1k/view?usp=sharing>



Discussion / Q & A



Closing: “Invitation” by Shel Silverstein



(for the September theme,
Invitation)

If you are a dreamer, come in.
If you are a dreamer, a wisher,
a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic
bean buyer.
If you're a pretender, come sit
by my fire,
For we have some flax golden
tales to spin.
Come in!
Come in!



Upcoming Webinars

Four Kinds of Fun

Gail Forsyth-Vail and Pat Kahn, UUA Faith Development Office
Tues., June 14 at 1 pm Eastern
or, Wed. June 15 at 9 pm Eastern

How to Host a Renaissance Module or OWL Training

Melanie J. Davis and Pat Kahn, UUA Faith Development Office
Tues. July 19 at 1 pm Eastern
or, Wed. July 20 at 9 pm Eastern



Thanks for attending this webinar
from the UUA Faith Development Office.

This webinar has been recorded
and will be posted online at
www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars