

Teacher Development Workshop for– Love Surrounds Us
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, Leah Purcell, DRE

Time scheduled for 5:30pm to 7:00 pm

Tapestry of Faith
From Content to Compassion

5:30 Welcome and Focus

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. --Leo F. Buscaglia

5:35 Guided Meditation: Close your eyes and imagine the class

- As the children come in from the service or Children's Chapel
- As they hear the story
- As they participate in activities
- As they have snack and free time

5:45 Display Materials for Session 1

- For Opening: Chalice, candle, multicolored cloth, and ribbon sticks
- For Activity 2: Copies of the story
- For Activity 3: A large, brightly colored plastic bowl
- For Alternate Activity 2: 1x17-inch paper for all participants; books with photographs of people; a variety of crayons and/or color markers

Review all the potential plans for Session One

- Welcoming and Entering
- Opening
- Activities
- Closing

6:10 Introduce Tapestry of Faith

*We envision children, youth, and adults who:
experience hope, joy, mystery, healing, and personal transformation in the midst
of life's challenges.*

Discussion: What do envision for the children in room 24 in the coming months from the list above? Anything else?

Children need:

- *To learn with their minds, hearts and hands*
- *To engage in integrated experiences that are anchored by soul-stirring narratives*
- *To learn faith by doing faith*
- *To be empowered as knowers, practitioners, and creators of Unitarian Universalism*
- *To know the transformative power of justice and love*

Discussion: What does it look like to focus on experience rather than content (information)?

6:40 Nuts and Bolts
Toward a Safe Congregation

6:55 Closing
Classrooms should be places in which students can legitimately act on a rich variety of purposes, in wonder and curiosity are alive, in which students and teachers live and grow together. Nel Noddings