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

1. The FIRST rule is to EVERYONE be fair and kind!
2. It's CLEVER to keep your ducks in a row!
3. It's fun to learn together.
4. We are free to search for the truth.
5. Speak your mind!
6. Vote for what is right.
7. We are all part of the web. Take good care of it!

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

Ringing the Chime and Lighting 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

Animal UU Principles Clipart by Andrea Lerner
UUs in Action Bulletin Board

UU's in Action –
Projects to serve; to pursue justice; and to cultivate compassion

BUILDING BRIDGES

Responding in Love
Responding with Love
Love is more

October

NG GO
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? Do you know what the money is for?
- Green, Lilac 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? What 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 was a part of what we should be doing — called the Strategic Plan. After the building was built, our congregation decided what it would be used for. The idea was that it would be a place for kids to play and it would be a place for kids to learn.

Sheridan Prep is an Albany public school — just a chartered school — a few blocks from Albany UU that serves children in kindergarten to 3rd grade. It’s a new school building, but it is better. They do not have the same resources as some other schools. Most of the families of the other schools, the kids at Sheridan Prep, are from middle class. Many of them work very hard, many of them work very hard. They are still not able to provide enough resources.

A few years ago, a group of parents, including the Leary and Chuck Leary’s, Mary and Tim Gough, and the children, came to the school to talk about the problem. They asked the children to help them raise money so that bright, hard-working kids could have a playground.

The children, in turn, asked that the teachers take part in the effort, and the teachers asked that the students take part in the effort. This is what a bond of Albany UU is all about and continues to do. The volunteers, the teachers, and the students all benefit from this work.

Then last year, Marsha and her two sons, Max and Sam, worked on a fundraising project with Mr. Gough. They asked the teachers to volunteer in the classrooms to help the children. And that’s what a bond of Albany UU is all about and continues to do. The volunteers, the teachers, and the students all benefit from this work.

The children are working hard to make sure that Albany UU could support their school.

In the Service:
Unitarian Universalist Valentines
Love is All You Need

Evening Meditation on Desire
I think again on my sand adventures, my fears
These small things that seemed so big
And all the pressing things I had to get
And the reach
And yet there is only one great thing
The only thing
To live is to see the great day that dawn
And the light that fills the world.
- From a Unitarian

Next Week, Jan 22

In the Service:
"Cultivating Healthy Desire" by Rev. Sam – Nurturing, nurturing desire, the words a bad combination. Start, growing and nurturing are the only kinds of desire. There are also very healthy desires we need here and in the world.

Music: Albany UU Choir
In Sunday School:
- Family Chapel for children in Pre-K through 5th 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 storytelling, role-playing, 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 - 11:45; 8:15-9:15 on the theme of "heart connections"
Interactive Bulletin Board

What would your dream playground for Sheridan Prep look like?
Robin Slaw
Paramus, NJ
Family Ministry

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

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#### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Affirmations</th>
<th>Evening Follow-ups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Today</strong></td>
<td>Kind and helpful. Your words can be a blessing!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1:</strong></td>
<td>Core message: Today!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2:</strong></td>
<td>Many Core messages you and have blesses:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3:</strong></td>
<td>Has someone who cares for you.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4:</strong></td>
<td>Chasing away the negative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5:</strong></td>
<td>Share your blessings with others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### May

- **Volunteer Day:**
  - How many blessings were you able to say today?
  - Who did you remember today?
  - How were your words kind and helpful today?
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  - How many blessings were you able to say today?
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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
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

To whom much has been given, much will be expected in return.
~ Luke 12:48

"Reflect upon your present blessings -- of which every man has many -- not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."
~ Charles Dickens

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, 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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4pGCOKz0RN4SDVUMVhVVEZ6T1k/view?usp=sharing)
Discussion / Q & A
(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