



# *Soul Matters*

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What does it mean to be a  
people of EMERGENCE?

RE Resources

April 2018

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Soul Matters RE Packet for April's theme of "What Does it Mean to be a People of Emergence?"

While exploring the topic of "Emergence" in our monthly online DRE brainstorm lab, we came to understand a unique quality of emergence. That is, you don't know what is emerging until it has already emerged. You can't fully tell what is coming until it has come! Or to put it another way, being a people of emergence involves doing all we can, trusting the process and keeping an eye out for unexpected opportunities to emerge. For instance, this certainly applies to the intentions we set in January. Now that it is April, what surprising thing has emerged from the January intentions you set? Was it what we expected? Or something completely new? It also relates to social justice and our conversation about racism. What is emerging is often unexpected, with many surprising opportunities to transform challenges into a new path forward. Like many of you, I witnessed this happen at the LREDA Fall Con as new awareness and new understandings about white supremacy emerged.

As we dive into the theme, it's also important to recognize that April is a month full of holidays - Easter, Passover and Earth Day, among others. In this packet, we look at these three holidays through the lens of "What does it mean to be a people of Emergence?" Passover is a great holiday for emergence, because it celebrates the emergence of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. For Easter, we revisit Sophia Fahs' version of the resurrection in "Jesus, the Carpenter's Son." (We have included the excerpt. If you don't have this classic, you can purchase it instantly in Kindle on Amazon.) Fahs used the words "as if" Jesus appeared, just as anyone in grief might experience the presence and emergence of their lost loved one. The emergence of Jesus was unexpected, that's for sure! The emergence of the Christian church was also something that couldn't have been predicted. For Earth Day, we celebrate the emergence of living things on our planet through evolution.

In addition, there are two other calendar dates for which we offer resources. The first is Rev. Dr. William Ellery Channing's birthday on April 7. He is known as the "Father of Unitarianism" and without him, we would not be who we are today. His is a core story for Unitarian Universalism. He gave us our insistence on the

worth and dignity of every person. In the 1840's no less! His "great end in religious instruction" quote is used by many programs today. He started the "Children's Story" tradition in our denomination. Plus, we found a connection with "the Mother of Kindergarten" Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. As a 9-year-old, she met Channing and was impressed with his treatment of children. As a young woman, she walked with him and helped with his sermon writing. There's a great description of his earnestness in her original "Reminiscences" book which she wrote after he died.

Finally, as part of our exploration of "being a people of emergence," we include resources on the emerging conversation about racism in Unitarian Universalism. We hope you take this opportunity to encourage families, children and youth to understand and engage in this vital conversation. Why wait for a Teach In?

As always, we are grateful for your love of children and family ministries. As we enter the Spring season, we hope that many unexpected gifts will emerge in your own lives.

*Katie, on behalf of the entire Soul Matters Team*

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# Calendar Connections

*Click on the name on each event for more information or inspiration.*

## Interfaith:

- [Easter](#) (Christian) - April 1
- [Passover](#) (Jewish) - March 30 - April 7 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Visakha Puja](#) - Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Death (Buddhist) - April 29 (more [here](#))
- Holocaust Remembrance Day/[Yom Ha'Shoah](#) (Jewish) April 11 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

## Unitarian Universalist:

- [William Ellery Channing](#)'s Birthday - April 7 (1780)
- [Hosea Ballou](#)'s Birthday - April 30 (1771) (more [here](#))
- [Climate Justice Month](#) - March 22 to April 22

## National & Cultural Holidays:

- [Jazz Appreciation Month](#) (more [here](#))
- [National Poetry Month](#) (more [here](#))
- [Earth Day](#) - April 22
- [Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day](#) - April 26 (more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Day of Silence](#) (LGBTQ) - April 27 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

## Historical Events:

- Martin Luther King Jr Assassinated - April 4 (1968)
- [U.S. declares war on Germany](#) - April 6 (1917)
- [Fair Housing Act passed](#) - April 11 (1968)
- [Freddie Gray is arrested in Baltimore and dies](#) after sustaining injuries in police custody - April 12 (2015)

## For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [April Fool's Day](#) - April 1 (more [here](#))
- [Star Trek Day](#) - April 5 (more [here](#))
- [National Tell a Story Day](#) - April 27
- [National Superhero Day](#) - April 28 (more [here](#))

# Stories for all Ages

## The End becomes the Beginning -The Resurrection according to Sophia Fahs (Easter)

*How to describe the resurrection of Jesus to UU's in multigenerational worship? Turn to Sophia Fahs' version in Chapter 20 of Jesus, the Carpenter's Son, titled "The End Becomes the Beginning" <http://amzn.to/2CR3ErE>. Included below is an excerpt from her book. Essentially, she describes the Resurrection "as if" the disciples saw him again, the emergence of Jesus' story and presence after he has died. It isn't uncommon for people who have lost a loved one to recall the voice and presence of the person they are missing. It can seem as though their loved one is speaking to them. Some people have dreams about their loved one as if it is really that person talking to them. And so it could have been for the disciples in their grief.*

"The remaining eleven disciples and the good women who had been accustomed to travel about with Jesus returned to Galilee brokenhearted. In their grief they clung to one another for comfort. They were struggling to understand why God had allowed Jesus to be killed...

For many days, no one could find an answer to these tormenting questions. It was as if the foundation stones on which these men and women had built their beliefs had been blasted out from under them... But slowly a strange thing began to happen. As these men and women gathered day after day in each other's homes, they began to recall the wonderful experiences they had had with Jesus. They told one another of happenings they had almost forgotten. The very tone of Jesus' voice and the look on his face would come back to them so vividly that it seemed sometimes as though Jesus were again right there with them. In addition to these experiences together, some had dreams in which Jesus came back and talked with them. In these dreams, Jesus seemed so real that the dreamers could not tell whether they had been asleep or awake when they saw him... Finally, several of them dreamed they saw Jesus rise up from the earth - higher and higher- until he disappeared entirely. They believed he had gone to heaven to be with God. And after that their dreams of seeing him again and talking with him stopped... Years passed by. The men and women who knew Jesus died. Their children and their children's children also died. But Jesus did not and has not come back. There are those who are still hoping for his second coming. But others believe that this Jesus, the carpenter's son, will never live again on the earth. What has been handed down to us from generation to generation regarding his life is the world's greatest treasure. His spirit never needs to die. When he lived on the earth, only small groups could listen to his words. Today his teachings are heard, and his story is told weekly in thousands of houses of worship... Now the followers of Jesus are numbered by the millions. Just as a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, yet from it there grows a new plant that bears new fruit and new seeds, so was Jesus' death..."

## The First Passover Seder in the White House

*Consider sharing matzo with the congregation.*

A Passover Seder is a ritual meal held by Jews. The Seder is traditionally conducted in the home by the family and their invited guests. At the Seder, participants read the Haggadah, a ritual text recounting the emergence of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The reading is accompanied by symbolic foods on the Passover Seder Plate. Garner your "Story for All Ages" from the New York Times article, excerpted below:

"During a visit to Israel in 2013, Obama stated that he brought the Passover Seder to the White House to acquaint his daughters with the story of the Exodus, whose themes resonated with his

personal beliefs. He said:

“To African Americans, the story of the Exodus was perhaps the central story, the most powerful image about emerging from the grip of bondage to reach for liberty and human dignity – a tale that was carried from slavery through the Civil Rights Movement into today. For me, personally, growing up in far-flung parts of the world and without firm roots, the story spoke to a yearning within every human being for a home.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/28/us/politics/28seder.html>

Former President Obama attended the [First Unitarian Universalist Church of Honolulu](#) as a boy, when growing up with his grandparents in Hawaii. Perhaps his willingness to embrace different customs and religions comes from that exposure.

The Passover Seder is a multigenerational meal. The children play an important part in the ritual, asking 4 questions about the story of the Exodus. In the White House Seder, Obama’s daughters, Malia and Sasha, asked the questions.

One of the questions is about a special Passover food called matzah.

What is matzah? Essentially, it is a flat bread made out of flour and water. There is nothing else to it. Simple, no frills. [Show the matzo]. So the youngest person in the room asks four questions. One of the questions is “Why do we eat only matzo on this night?”

One reason is historical: Passover is a commemoration of the exodus from Egypt. The biblical narrative relates that the Israelites left Egypt in such haste they could not wait for their bread dough to rise; the bread, when baked, was matzo. (Exodus 12:39).

The other reason for eating matzo is symbolic: matzo is a poor man’s bread. Thus it serves as a reminder to be humble, and to not forget what life was like in servitude. Eating the “bread of affliction” is both a lesson in humility and an act that enhances the appreciation of freedom.

In this ritual, the Obamas celebrated the emergence of all people from slavery, and the journey of African-Americans toward wholeness. They celebrated with open hearts and minds, a celebration of emergence that we Unitarian Universalists celebrate too.

### **The Friendship between the Father of Unitarianism and the Mother of American Kindergartens**

*This is the story of two Unitarians, Rev. Dr. William Ellery Channing, known as the Father of Unitarianism and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, known as the Mother of American Kindergartens and how their lives influenced each other and us, today. Below are various excerpts from different sources which you can use to create a story for all ages.*

*A Story about the beginning of “For All Ages” - Rev. Channing and Children in the Sanctuary*  
Where did the tradition of “For All Ages” come from? One source might be from the father of Unitarianism, Rev. Dr. William Ellery Channing and his valuing of children.

From his earliest days in ministry, Channing was concerned for the education and spiritual progress of children. One of the earliest innovations of his ministry was to invite the children about him after worship.... [This sounds like the early beginning of “For All Ages!”] He worked with educational reformers Elizabeth Peabody, Bronson Alcott, Dorothea Dix and Horace Mann. He wrote in his “Remarks on Education,” “There is no office higher than that of a teacher of youth, for there is nothing on earth so precious as the mind, soul, character of the child.” *From Dictionary of UU Biography* <http://uudb.org/articles/williamellerychanning.html>

*The Goal of RE becomes the Kindergarten Philosophy*

Many RE and Faith Formation programs use his words from 1837 to describe our UU modern philosophy of religious education. His words echo the philosophy of Kindergarten as well as [modern discussions of the purpose of education](#). Have we caught up to him yet?

“The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own;

Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;

Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;

Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs;

Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect of peculiar notions;

But to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;

Not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought;

Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment;

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life.”

- 1837 Address to the Unitarian Sunday School Society, Wm. Ellery Channing

<http://bit.ly/2EZsltH>

*How the Mother of Kindergarten was mentored by Unitarian minister Rev. Channing*

Rev. Channing sent his daughter to the Brookline School, founded by Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. But they had met before, when Elizabeth was a little girl. Peabody grew up in the heyday of Unitarianism’s influence in Massachusetts. She remembered hearing William Ellery Channing, the minister of Boston’s Federal Street Church and the leading advocate of Unitarianism, preach for the first time when she was a girl about 9 years old. She loved his presence with children, which was earnest and kind.

“Later, as a young woman, for almost nine years, Elizabeth served as a volunteer secretary to Channing, copying his sermons and getting them ready to be printed. Channing often consulted her while he was writing his sermons. They had many long conversations and she studied theology, literature and philosophy under his guidance.” adapted from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/elizabeth-palmer-peabody-biography-3530587>

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/kindergartens-radical-advocate>

And so, Elizabeth learned much from Rev. Dr. Channing, and we see that influence in her philosophy of educating children.

*Lifelong learning is a Kindergarten philosophy as well as a UU religious education philosophy*

Does it sound like Channing’s “not to stamp our minds, but to stir up their own?” And so it is for us today in UU religious education.

“In 1860, Elizabeth learned of the German kindergarten movement and the writings of its founder, Friedrich Froebel, when Carl Schurz sent her a book by Froebel. This fit well with Elizabeth’s interests in education and young children, and all of the time she spent in Rev. Channing’s circle.

... Elizabeth then founded the first public kindergarten in the United States, also called the first formally organized kindergarten in America, on Beacon Hill. In 1867 and 1868, Elizabeth traveled to Europe to study and better understand the Froebel method. Her 1870 reports on this trip were published by the Bureau of Education. That same year, she set up the first free public kindergarten in America.

... Elizabeth Peabody believed that the premise of children’s play had intrinsic merit and educational



value. Froebel had rejected fear-based discipline in favor of fostering a child's curiosity and senses, which Peabody supported. ... She believed in the intuitive nature of knowledge and that such knowledge had to be drawn out rather than imposed in children. These were radical ideas in the 19th century and some would continue to find them as radical ideas today. For Peabody, education was not an accumulation of facts but rather a lifelong discovery process, which she embodied."

<https://opensource.com/education/13/8/open-education-ideals-peabody>

## Song for All Ages

*Hymns and songs that can be used as a Story for All Ages.  
Here's a way to invite the music people into multigenerational worship.  
Ask them to offer the Song for All Ages with you or instead of  
the minister, lay leader or religious educator.*

### **For the Earth Forever Turning STLT #163**

There are two hymns which have become anthems for Earth Day in UU culture. One is Peter Mayer's "Blue Boat Home" the other is "For the Earth Forever Turning." We will save "Blue Boat Home" for another day and look at the backstory of "For the Earth Forever Turning," today.

It is a hymn with roots in science fiction, Apollo 15 and the Grand Canyon.

This hymn was written for the Missa Gaia, Earth Mass, by Paul Winter and recorded in the Grand Canyon in 1981. In the Mass, Winter included the voices of wolf, whale, eagle, harp seal, Amazonian musical wren, Russian loon, and human beings.

"Winter recorded in a small side canyon of the Grand Canyon. The original idea of playing music in the canyon began when Winter played his saxophone while standing on the edge of the canyon and felt that the long echoes coming back from the canyon almost seemed like the Earth was responding back to him." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canyon\\_\(Paul\\_Winter\\_album\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canyon_(Paul_Winter_album))

Paul Winter was inspired to write the lyrics for this song in the Mass from the science fiction story of Rhysling, the blind singer of the spaceways, an engineer blinded in a shipboard incident who then wrote the songs which became an integral part of the future culture of humanity. Rhysling was travelling home to Earth on the Venus Shuttle in Robert Heinlein's sci-fi classic, "The Green Hills of Earth". There was a radiation leak and Rhysling fixed it, even knowing he would die soon from the radiation poisoning. Rhysling wrote his last ballad yearning for "one more landing on the globe that gave us birth," and his last lyric was, "May we rest our eyes on the fleecy skies and the cool green hills of earth."

Adapted from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Green\\_Hills\\_of\\_Earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Hills_of_Earth)

Heinlein wrote the story in 1947, long before anyone could really view our blue green planet from space. They could only imagine it then. But later, the astronauts and satellites took photos from space, and we can see what was only imaginary for Rhysling.

"In real-life space travel, references to Rhysling and "the green hills of Earth" were made by Apollo 15 astronauts. In July 1971, astronauts David R. Scott and James B. Irwin named a crater near their landing

site "Rhysling." This name has since been adopted officially."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Green\\_Hills\\_of\\_Earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Hills_of_Earth)

Imagine the earth responding to us, as we sing this hymn. Imagine the beautiful blue green marble in the sky as the astronauts waltzed around on the moon and imagine that blind poet longing to return to his home as we sing #164 For the Earth Forever Turning.

#### **4'33" by John Cage (pronounced Four Minutes, Thirty-Three Seconds)**

Article: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/10/04/searching-for-silence>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTEFKFiXSx4>

More about the piece: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4%E2%80%B233%E2%80%B3>

*In 20016, the Boulder Valley UU Congregation experienced this as a "For All Ages" piece, as suggested by Music Director, Sam Welsh. It was unsettling and revealing and is worth the experience. Is what emerges "music" as John Cage wishes?*

Collaborate with your musicians and offer this performance (or perhaps one movement) to illustrate the emergence of sound in what is called the "Silent" piece. It is up to 7 minutes of silence, in which the players count out the measures, turn pages, and the piece becomes the sounds of the audience, of the surroundings. There are no notes to be played.

It helps us reflect on how we cannot control what emerges, how what emerges is something entirely new.

At Boulder Valley, we decided that this controversial piece deserved a time after the performance for deconstructing how it made everyone feel, what reflections arose, and what the composer meant for it.

# Book Recommendations

## **Chicken Sunday (for Easter)**

*by Patricia Polacco (Author)*

Book: <http://amzn.to/2EaK7PH>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85xA5AQeTSw>

"In this moving picture book, the hatred sometimes engendered by racial and religious differences is overpowered by the love which emerges from people who recognize their common humanity. The text conveys a tremendous pride of heritage as it brims with rich images from her characters' African American and Russian Jewish cultures--A tribute to the strength of all family bonds." - Amazon

## **Rechenka's Eggs (for Easter)**

*by Patricia Polacco (author)*

<http://amzn.to/2DhIGDs>

"Old Babushka, known throughout all of Moskva for her beautifully painted eggs, is preparing her eggs for the Easter Festival when she takes in an injured goose. She names the goose Rechenka, and they live happily together until one day when Rechenka accidentally overturns a basket, breaking all of Babushka's lovingly crafted eggs. But the next morning Babushka has a surprise awaiting her in the basket. She cries: "A miracle!" It is one of many in this charmingly told tale of friendship and caring." - Amazon

## **Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth (for Earth Day)**

*by Oliver Jeffers (Author, Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2CFjXrp>

"Insightfully sweet, with a gentle humor and poignancy, here is Oliver Jeffers' user's guide to life on Earth. He created it specially for his son, yet with a universality that embraces all children and their parents. Be it a complex view of our planet's terrain (bumpy, sharp, wet), a deep look at our place in space (it's big), or a guide to all of humanity (don't be fooled, we are all people), Oliver's signature wit and humor combine with a value system of kindness and tolerance to create a must-have book." - Amazon

## **The Blue Songbird**

*by Vern Kousky (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2EbwQq3>

Making space for something to emerge that you can't control. "A little blue songbird longs to sing like her sisters. But whenever she tries, she cannot get the tune right. Her mother encourages her to leave home and find a song that only she can sing. With courage and tenacity, she travels the world, seeking advice from a crane, an owl, and a mean-looking crow, and other birds, hoping they will lead her to her special song." - Amazon

## **The Fox and the Star**

*by Coralie Bickford-Smith (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2F32rM4>

What will the fox find when he emerges from his den after losing his star. "Look up beyond your ears."  
See what emerges.

### **Mrs. Katz and Tush (for Passover)**

*by Patricia Polacco (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2EZRDya>

An emerging friendship includes a Passover Seder. "Larnel doesn't know his neighbor, Mrs. Katz, very well, until he asks her to adopt an abandoned kitten. Mrs. Katz agrees on one condition: that Larnel help her take care of the kitten she names Tush. When Larnel starts spending more and more time with Mrs. Katz to help with Tush, Mrs. Katz tells him stories about coming to America from Poland and about the good times she spent with her late husband. As Larnel grows to love Mrs. Katz, he also learns about the suffering and triumph black history shares with the Jewish heritage." - Amazon

### **The Everything Seed: A Story of Beginnings**

*by Carole Martignacco (Author), Joy Troyer (Illustrator)*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session1/168158.shtml>

"A journey to the beginning of the universe, a beginning that is still with us, still emerging. One scientist said, 'You come out of the energy that gave birth to the universe. Its story is your story, its beginnings are your beginnings.'" - Amazon We Unitarian Universalists seek to be a part of the web of life. We like to understand how we are related to the stars and to the earth. explore the emerging web of life.

### **The Treasure**

*By Uri Shulevitz (Author, Illustrator), recommended by Leah Purcell, Albany, NY*

<https://www.amazon.com/Treasure-Sunburst-Book-Uri-Shulevitz/dp/0374479550>

You don't know what will emerge in your journey until it already has happened. In this story, a man has a dream which leads him to a city to find a treasure. In the end, his journey leads him back to his own house, where the treasure is under his own stove.

### **Amazon Book List on Liberation which also speaks to Being a People of Emergence**

*By Melissa Sinclair*

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2GSMSOW14MGXP/ref=cm\\_sw\\_su\\_w](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2GSMSOW14MGXP/ref=cm_sw_su_w)

# Sessions

## Session 1

### Emergence as Birth and Rebirth (Easter)

#### Young Children (P - K)

##### **Wonder Box**

*Place inside: a peep, a jelly bean, chocolate rabbit or other Easter Candy*

What is in the wonder box? It is Easter candy! Did you do something special for Easter this morning? Have an egg hunt or get an Easter basket? What was in your basket?

Besides the Easter candy what else was a part of your Easter? Were there eggs? We color eggs for Easter. Eggs are a part of Easter because they remind us of new baby chicks, and new babies everywhere. We hunt for eggs sometimes, too. We use eggs at Easter to remind us that new babies emerge at springtime. Emergence is the theme this month. It means to come out. A baby chick emerges from its egg, it pecks its way out of the egg. A baby rabbit comes out of its mother's uterus. Spring emerges from winter.

##### **Story**

###### **Peppa's Easter Egg Hunt**

*By Scholastic (Author), Eone (Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2lYnXJ3>

Introduces the idea of an Easter Egg hunt.

###### **Pete the Cat: Big Easter Adventure**

*by James Dean (Author, Illustrator), Kimberly Dean (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2EbO4nm>

When Pete wakes up Easter morning, ready to check out his basket of goodies, he discovers the Easter Bunny needs a little extra help. Our favorite groovy blue cat puts on his bunny ears and finds a way to collect, paint, and hide the eggs all in time for Easter!

###### **Meet Jesus**

*Author: Lynn Tuttle Gunney Illustrated By: Jane Conteh-Morgan*

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Meet-Jesus-P17599.aspx>

The story of Jesus told in a simple way for UU Children.

##### **Mindfulness**

Locate some bubble mixture and a wand.

Say something like, "I am going to blow some quiet bubbles. Watch them emerge. Watch them come out." Invite the children to sit and watch them float away. As you blow the bubbles, wave and say something like "bubbles are quiet," Bubbles come out" "fly away bubbles" or "Calm like the bubbles floating." This simple gesture connects the bubble blowing with a sense of letting go.

## **Fingerplays about Emergence**

### **Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar**

Fuzzy Wuzzy caterpillar humps along, (pretend pointer finger is a caterpillar crawling up the opposite arm)

Humps along, humps along.

Fuzzy Wuzzy caterpillar humps along,

Out to see the world.

Fuzzy Wuzzy caterpillar goes to sleep, (pretend pointer finger caterpillar goes to sleep)

Goes to sleep, goes to sleep.

Fuzzy Wuzzy caterpillar goes to sleep,

In his warm cocoon.

Someday you will be a pretty butterfly, (make a butterfly with hands by linking thumbs, fly around)

Butterfly, butterfly.

Someday you will be a pretty butterfly,

Out to see the world.

### **Did You Ever See a Bunny?**

to the tune of "Did you Ever See a Lassie?"

Did you ever see a bunny,

A bunny, a bunny,

Did you ever see a bunny,

Hop this way and that?

Hop this way and that way?

Hop this way and that way?

Did you ever see a bunny,

Hop this way and that?

Did you ever see a bunny,

A bunny, a bunny,

Did you ever see a bunny,

That hopped quite this slow?

Hop this way and that way?

Hop this way and that way?

Did you ever see a bunny,

That hopped quite this slow?

Did you ever see a bunny,

A bunny, a bunny,

Did you ever see a bunny,

That hopped quite this fast?

Hop this way and that way?

Hop this way and that way?

Did you ever see a bunny,

That hopped quite this fast?

## **Movement and Song**

### **Chicken Dance**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQQ59Z-al4w>

Need to figure out the dance? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzV63IRR8BQ>

Invite the children to celebrate all things chicken with the Macarena dance.

### **Butterfly Wings**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lkza\\_tRINRE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lkza_tRINRE)

Butterflies emerge during spring.

## **Science - Metamorphosis as Emergence**

### **Video: Caterpillar to Butterfly Metamorphosis**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocWgSgMGxOc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcokL7PRnY&feature=youtu.be&list=PLKPueg6MtuY2vSk6N4IDtSqOkFcucii-v>

### **Order a Butterfly Kit**

<http://amzn.to/2Em7VjK>

## **Meet and Learn from Some Visitors**

### **Emergence as Birth - Child Dedication**

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs/session5/287692.shtml>

Invite a family who have celebrated a child dedication in your congregation. Invite them to share what happened.

### **Pet Chicken or Rabbit Visit**

Invite a chicken or a rabbit to visit the group for Easter!

## **“Sunshine” (connection with nature and our bodies) and Service**

### **Easter “Can” Hunt (instead of an Egg Hunt)**

If the traditional model of an Easter Egg Hunt is problematic for you, like it was for Boulder Valley UU Fellowship, try a “Can” Hunt instead. The RE Committee was tired of cheap plastic eggs, competitive, pushy children and more candy.

Rachel Setzke, young mother and member of the RE Committee, collaborated with the Social Action Committee to collect cans for the Boulder County AIDS Project Food Pantry during the weeks before Easter. During the Easter Sunday service, the Youth Groups of Middle School and High School, hid the cans on the front lawn. Just after the service, the preschoolers, then the older children ran around collecting the cans. It was so much fun, the children asked if they could re-hide the cans and do it again.

Tips:

- Use sturdy baskets for collecting since the cans get heavy.
- Have the person delivering the cans after the hunt, park close by the hunt grounds so all can load the car after the event.

## **Elementary Aged Children (1 - 5th)**

### **Reflections**

Prop: Easter basket, Easter candy

The theme this month is “How are we a people of emergence?” Emergence means.... what do you think? Something like “emergency?” Well, emergence and emergency sound alike because they have the same root word- emerger. Emerger comes from the French and Latin word for arising. But **emergency** means arising unexpectedly (like a broken arm!) and **emergence** means beginning to arise, like a chick emerging from an egg. In other words, emergence means coming out... a worm emerges from a hole, a thought emerges from your brain, a flower emerges from the seed.

Today, we can reflect on emergence and Easter. Unitarian Universalists celebrate the emergence of spring from winter and the emergence of new life, such as baby animals and butterflies. Christians also celebrate Easter as the emergence of a Savior, Jesus Christ, after his death. Because of this emergence, we might think of Easter as the emergence of the Christian church. One can never tell what will emerge from a story until you look backwards and see. When exactly did Spring really start? What kind of chicken will the chick grow up to be. What would happen after Jesus’ death? We know now, but in those days, no one knew what would happen.

### **Story**

#### **Meet Jesus**

Author: Lynn Tuttle Gunney Illustrated By: Jane Conteh-Morgan

<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Meet-Jesus-P17599.aspx>

The story of Jesus told in a simple way for UU Children.

#### **The Easter Story**

by Brian Wildsmith (Author)

<https://www.amazon.com/Easter-Story-Brian-Wildsmith/dp/0802851894>

Wildsmith has masterfully condensed and simplified the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ for young readers, and provided luminous paintings as accompaniment. The child-friendly text describes seminal events, as when Jesus rides a faithful donkey into Jerusalem and celebrates the Last Supper with friends. Although the miracles depicted here hold particular significance for Christians, all readers can appreciate Wildsmith's gently rendered artwork and its judiciously applied metallic paints. - Amazon

Or one of the recommended Stories for All Ages or Books.

### **Mindfulness**

#### **Butterfly Meditation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= mX4JBBicBk>

Butterfly floating above your body, imagine feeling its wings.



## Craft Activity

### Decorate Baskets and Cards for the Can Hunt

If you are donating food to a Food Pantry for a Can Hunt, see below in “Sunshine and Service,” consider making cards to include with the food donations, “Happy Spring! From the children and congregation of First Unitarian Church.” Decorate the sturdy collection baskets with ribbon and Easter grass.

Or

### Decorate White Lunch Bags

If you are holding a traditional egg hunt, invite the children to decorate white paper lunch bags to collect their eggs.

## Videos on Chicks Emerging

*Share these videos on emerging new life. Have you ever seen an egg hatch?*

### Baby Chicks Hatching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lenb1zuo-eE>

### Baby Chick Helps Another Hatch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-ZX8Uc9sws>

### 28 Baby Chicks Arrive at a Farm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHFaanxFzmw>

## Video on the Christian Story at Easter

### “Remember Me”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=181&v=nhFBX5ZSySo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=181&v=nhFBX5ZSySo)

An animated video clip of the song “Remember Me” as Jesus breaks bread with his disciples at the Last Supper. Be aware that there are some brief images of Jesus crucified and suffering and be prepared to answer questions about the story. This is an illustration of the emergence of the Christian church and of some of its practices such as Communion (sharing of bread and wine).

## Science - Metamorphosis as Emergence

### Video: Caterpillar to Butterfly Metamorphosis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocWgSgMGxOc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcokL7PRrnY&feature=youtu.be&list=PLKPueg6MtuY2vSk6N4IDtSqOkFcucii-v>

### Order a Butterfly Kit

<http://amzn.to/2Em7Vjk>

It will be hard to time the emergence of the butterfly from the Chrysalis, but if it happens to coincide with Sunday morning, it is a miracle! Another option is to email the families and let them know the emergence is happening on whatever day or afternoon and meet the interested families at church to watch.

## **Games**

### **Easter Games**

<https://www.thespruce.com/kids-easter-party-games-2104432>

Hop-a-thon, Eggs in a Haystack - who will emerge as a winner?

## **Meet and Learn from Some Visitors**

### **Emergence as Birth - Child Dedication**

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs/session5/287692.shtml>

Invite a family who has celebrated a child dedication in your congregation. Invite them to share what happened and how they felt.

Say something like: We are Unitarian Universalists and like many congregations we have a special way of welcoming a new baby. We celebrate the baby and recognize the emerging new family when a baby is born.

For more information, visit <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-do/celebrations/births>

### **Pet Chicken or Rabbit Visit**

Invite a chicken or a rabbit to visit the group for Easter!

## **“Sunshine” (connection with nature and our bodies) and Service**

### **Easter “Can” Hunt (instead of an Egg Hunt)**

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Tips:

- Use sturdy baskets for collecting since the cans get heavy.
- Have the person delivering the cans after the hunt, park close by the hunt grounds so all can load the car after the event.

## Session 2

### Emergence from Slavery into Freedom - Passover

#### Young Children (P - K)

##### **Wonder Box**

*Place inside: Parsley, matzo, horseradish, or other Passover Seder food.*

I wonder what is in the box... (pull out the Seder food) Here is some special food that Jewish people eat on Passover. Passover is a Jewish holiday. There is a special meal when the family tells the story of Moses and the escape from slavery. The people emerged, came into freedom. I wonder what it tastes like?

Offer the children a taste from extra supplies.

##### **Story**

##### **More Than Enough**

*by April Halprin Wayland (Author), Katie Kath (Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2CL23n5>

Passover is a story of emerging from slavery in Egypt. A Jewish family prepares for their Passover Seder, visiting the farmer's market for walnuts, lilacs, and honey (and adopting a kitten along the way!), then chopping apples for the charoset, and getting dressed up before walking to Nana's house. At Nana's, there's matzo ball soup, chicken, coconut macaroons, and of course, the hidden afikomen. After opening the door for Elijah and singing the verses of "Chad Gadya," Nana tucks the children in for a special Passover sleepover.

##### **My First Passover Board book**

*by Tomie dePaola (Author, Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2CXA2c7>

Passover is a time for families and friends to celebrate their faith and shared history.

##### **Sammy Spider's First Haggadah (Passover)**

*by Sylvia A. Rouss (Author), Katherine Janus Kahn (Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2EvkjOo>

Sammy leads young children through the steps of the Passover Seder, telling the story of the Exodus, asking and answering the Four Questions, and sampling the traditional foods.

##### **Mindfulness**

Say something like this:

Ring the bell. We put our hands on our hearts and feel the beating. Can you feel it? We breathe in love and breathe out peace. Our breath is coming out of us. It is emerging from us. We let it go.

Offer the following simple Meditation.

May I be happy. May I be peaceful. May I be free.

May you be happy. May you be peaceful. May you be free.

May we be happy. May we be peaceful. May we be free.

##### **Songs**

## **Dayenu! A Tot Passover Song-Filled Seder**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHgiF5J04ew>

## **Fingerplays**

### **Passover Songs and Fingerplays**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoRi1Lj\\_zJI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoRi1Lj_zJI)

And following videos. There are 4 songs.

## **Game**

### **Play Hide the Afikomen (Matzo)**

<https://www.vox.com/cards/everything-need-to-know-passover-moses-seder/what-is-the-afikomen-and-why-is-it-hidden>

Hide a piece of Matzo wrapped in a napkin to play the game which Jewish children play during the Passover Seder.

## **Arts and Crafts**

### **Passover Plagues Finger Puppets**

<https://toriavey.com/home-garden/passover-finger-puppets-the-ten-plagues/>

## **Movement**

### **Passover Dance**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0qsy32Hk4s>

Some Hebrew, some jazz, hula hoops, a girls dance group - join in!

## **“Sunshine” (connection with nature and our bodies)**

### **Passover Freedom Parachute**

Passover is a story about being slaves in Egypt and that is why we try really hard to make sure that no people are slaves today. We want everyone to be able to live happy, safe lives everywhere in the world. Everywhere in the world we fight for freedom.

“...And we hope for peace throughout the world and in Israel and that people from the four corners of the world will join together in Israel.

One way of physically understanding the concept of bringing people together from the four corners of the world is to bring the group together from four corners of an outdoor space. You can start off in four corners and then run together to the center where a parachute is lying on the ground. Everybody picks up an edge of the parachute, and all proceed to walk in a circle, pulling the parachute up in the air and back down again.”

<https://reformjudaism.org/passover-seder-young-children-4-5-years>

## Service (to others)

Bring a stack of matzo to coffee hour to share with the congregation! Provide toppings such as butter, jelly, or horseradish, optional.

## **Elementary Aged Children (1 - 5th)**

### Reflection

*Props: Gather the following props to symbolize the 10 plagues. Place each one in a separate black envelope or bag and give each one to a different child. As you tell the story, invite them to try to guess what plague their item represents, and then show the plague which is being referenced.*

*Blood: dark-chocolate-covered cherries, or red food coloring in glycerin in a small pill bottle.*

*Frogs: Plastic toy frogs or frog trinkets*

*Lice: Rice in a small baggie or small white crab or ticks.*

*Flies: Toy flies*

*Livestock disease: Plastic cows*

*Boils: Bubble wrap or bubbles*

*Hail: Chiclets gum or ping pong balls*

*Locusts: grasshopper toys or edible fried grasshoppers*

*Darkness: Plastic sunglasses*

*Slaying of the first born: Halloween skeleton stickers or toys*

Our theme of the month, “Emergence,” is perfect for the Jewish holiday that is happening this month. The eight-day festival of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, March 30-April 7, 2018. Passover tells the story of the emergence of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. In Hebrew it is known as Pesach (which means “to pass over”), because G<sub>d</sub> passed over the Jewish homes when killing the Egyptian firstborn on the very first Passover eve. [http://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach\\_cdo/aid/871715/jewish/Passover-Pesach-2018.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/871715/jewish/Passover-Pesach-2018.htm)

The story is written down in the Jewish Scriptures in the Bible. It is the story about Moses. Moses grew up with the Pharaoh, or king, of Ancient Egypt. When he became an adult, Moses wanted Pharaoh to let his people, the Jews, out of slavery. The Pharaoh refused, so Yahweh, the god of the Hebrews, sent 10 plagues to prove how powerful he was.

*Read the following about the plagues and invite the children to search in their “Plague Bags” and find the correct plague, then show it to everyone.*

When Moses approached Pharaoh, demanding that he let the Hebrews go, Pharaoh responded by saying, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go” (Exodus 5:2). Thus began the challenge to show whose God was more powerful.

1. The first plague, turning the Nile to blood, was a judgment against Apis, the god of the Nile, Isis, goddess of the Nile, and Khnum, guardian of the Nile. The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris, who was reborn each year when the river flooded. The river, which formed the basis of daily life and the national economy, was devastated, as millions of fish died in the river and the water was

unusable. Pharaoh was told, “By this you will know that I am the LORD” (Exodus 7:17). But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

2. The second plague, bringing frogs from the Nile, was a judgment against Heqet, the frog-headed goddess of birth. Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land (Exodus 8:13–14). But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

3. The third plague, lice, was a judgment on Set, the god of the desert. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

4. The fourth plague, flies, was a judgment on Uatchit, the fly god. In this plague, God clearly distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as no swarms of flies bothered the areas where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:21–24). But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

5. The fifth plague, the death of livestock, was a judgment on the goddess Hathor and the god Apis, who were both depicted as cattle. As with the previous plague, God protected His people from the plague, while the cattle of the Egyptians died. Pharaoh even sent investigators (Exodus 9:7) to find out if the Israelites were suffering along with the Egyptians, but the result was a hardening of his heart against the Israelites. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

6. The sixth plague, boils, was a judgment against several gods over health and disease (Sekhmet, Sunu, and Isis). This time, the Bible says that the magicians “could not stand before Moses because of the boils.” Clearly, these religious leaders were powerless against the God of Israel. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

7. ...The seventh plague, hail, attacked Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the crop fertility god; and Set, the storm god. This hail was unlike any that had been seen before. It was accompanied by a fire which ran along the ground, and everything left out in the open was devastated by the hail and fire. Again, the children of Israel were miraculously protected, and no hail damaged anything in their lands. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

8. .... The eighth plague, locusts, again focused on Nut, Osiris, and Set. The later crops, wheat and rye, which had survived the hail, were now devoured by the swarms of locusts. There would be no harvest in Egypt that year. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

9. The ninth plague, darkness, was aimed at the sun god, Re, who was symbolized by Pharaoh himself. For three days, the land of Egypt was smothered with an unearthly darkness, but the homes of the Israelites had light. But Pharaoh did not let the Hebrews go.

10. The tenth and last plague, the death of the firstborn males, was a judgment on Isis, the protector of children... God commanded each Hebrew family to take an unblemished male lamb and kill it. The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the top and sides of their doorways, and the lamb was to be roasted and eaten that night. Any family that did not follow God’s instructions would suffer in the last plague. God described how He would send the death angel through the land of Egypt, with orders to slay the firstborn male in every household, whether human or animal. The only protection was the blood of the lamb on the door. When the angel saw the blood, he would pass over that house and leave it untouched (Exodus 12:23). This is where the term Passover comes from. Passover is a memorial of that night in

ancient Egypt when God delivered His people from bondage. While the Israelites found God's protection in their homes, every other home in the land of Egypt experienced God's wrath as their loved ones died. When Pharaoh's own son died, he relented. This grievous event caused Pharaoh to finally release the Israelites. <https://www.gotquestions.org/ten-plagues-Egypt.html>

## Story

### **Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim: A Passover Story**

*by Rabbi Deborah Bodin Cohen (Author), Jago Silver (Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2Clnhlu>

Nachshon's emergence from fear means the Jewish people will be saved. For generations Nachshon's family has been enslaved by the Egyptian Pharaoh. Nachshon is afraid it will be his destiny too. Then Moses confronts the fearsome Pharaoh, and Nachshon's dream of freedom begins to come true. But soon he has to overcome his own special fear. The story of the brave boy who was the first to jump into the sea will inspire young and old alike.

### **The Longest Night: A Passover Story**

*by Laurel Snyder (Author), Catia Chien (Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2EcjY2W>

A family emerges from slavery into freedom. Told through the eyes of a young slave girl, author Laurel Snyder and illustrator Catia Chien skillfully and gently depict the story of Pharaoh, Moses, the 10 plagues, and the parting of the Red Sea in a remarkably accessible way. This dramatic adventure, set over 3,500 years ago, of a family that endures hardships and ultimately finds freedom is the perfect tool to help young children make sense of the origins of the Passover traditions.

### **Exodus**

*By Brian Wildsmith*

<https://www.amazon.com/Exodus-Brian-Wildsmith/dp/0802851754>

"This is the story of how one man led his people out of slavery to a land that God had promised to give them. His name was Moses. With vivid, richly detailed illustrations, Brian Wildsmith captures all the major events of one of the greatest stories in the Bible. The story of the Exodus and the rescue of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt is a powerful and exciting tale which attests that God's guiding hand is always evident. In Wildsmith's hands, this familiar journey comes alive against stunning backdrops—from the great palaces of ancient Egypt, to the vast expanses of Sinai's mountains and wilderness, to the peaceful place God's people can finally call home." - Amazon

## Video

### **Shalom Sesame - Ethiopian Passover**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lOZrtivtTE>

Khalikidan and her family came to Israel from Ethiopia. Join her family for a Passover Seder and share Khalikidan's excitement in reciting the four questions.

## **Mindfulness**

Invite the participants to move into a comfortable position.

Allow your eyes to close. Inhale and exhale. Listen to the sound of your breath. Do you not hear the distant sound of an ancient sea? Listen to your breath from that part of your heart that can imagine living in a desert next to the sea. Inhale and exhale and hear the moving of the waters echoing in your innermost ear as you inhale and exhale.

Keeping your eyes closed, feel a powerful force pulling you. Feel its pull drawing you toward freedom. Listen! In the distance you can hear the dim clatter of spears and shields, horses' hooves and the rumble of chariot wheels. The whinny of a horse, a muffled command barked by one of the charioteers or Egyptian Captains. The rumbling of the chariots. Pharaoh's great army is coming behind us.

We are approaching the sea. Inhale the tangy salty, watery smell of the sea. Feel the sand sift through your toes in your sandals. Listen! Perhaps you can hear the bleating of sheep. And the children saying "Mommy, Daddy, where are we going?" "What will happen to us?"

The familiar, the known, is behind. The sea lies ahead, and the wheels of Pharaoh's chariots are rumbling - coming closer. The wind is picking up. A strong wind from the East. A persistent, steady, seemingly purposeful wind. A wind that could change everything.

Your hair is flying and there are white caps on the sea. And then -It is a miracle! The sea has parted and there is a path on dry land before us. We cross and are free!

Imagine how sweet freedom is. Take a few moments in silence to imagine the feel of freedom some more.

Ring the bell.

Return to this time and this room.

*Adapted from Guided Visualization for Passover Seder or Shabbat Shirah*

*By: Rabbi Goldie Milgram*

<http://www.reclaimingjudaism.org/teachings/guided-visualization%E2%80%A8-passover-seder-or-shabbat-shirah>

## **Game**

Play Hide the Afikomen (Matzah)

<https://www.vox.com/cards/everything-need-to-know-passover-moses-seder/what-is-the-afikomen-and-why-is-it-hidden>

Hide a piece of Matzah wrapped in a napkin to play the game which Jewish children play during the Passover Seder.

## **Arts and Crafts**

Passover Plagues Finger Puppets

<https://toriavey.com/home-garden/passover-finger-puppets-the-ten-plagues/>

Print the templates out and invite the children to color them while you tell the story.

## **Movement**

### **Passover Dance**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0qsy32Hk4s>

Some Hebrew, some jazz, hula hoops, a girls dance group - turn up the music and join in!

### **"Sunshine" (connection with nature and our bodies)**



### **Passover Freedom Parachute**

Passover is a story about being slaves in Egypt and a celebration and commitment to freedom. We want everyone to be able to live happy, safe lives everywhere in the world. Everywhere in the world we fight for freedom. And we hope for peace throughout the world and that people from the four corners of the world will join together for freedom.

One way of physically understanding the concept of bringing people together from the four corners of the world is to bring the group together from four corners of an outdoor space. You can start off in four corners and then run together to the center where a parachute is lying on the ground. Everybody picks up an edge of the parachute, and all proceed to walk in a circle, pulling the parachute up in the air and back down again. Adapted from <https://reformjudaism.org/passover-seder-young-children-4-5-years>

### **Service**

Make a nut free Charoset, the sweet dessert symbolizing the mortar of the pyramids which the Hebrews used to build with. Serve the families as they pick up their children.

<https://reformjudaism.org/taste-test-22-nut-free-charoset-recipes>

<http://www.simplywholesomekitchen.com/2011/04/charoset-kid-friendly-and-nut-free-html> (Charoset for 12) Eat it with matzo crackers.

## Session 3

### Emergence of Unitarianism - Happy Birthday, Channing

#### Young Children (P - K)

##### **Wonder Box**

*Place inside: birthday candle*

What is in the wonder box? A birthday candle! This candle is for someone's birthday, whose birthday is it? It is the birthday of a minister, Reverend William Ellery Channing. His birthday was April 7, 1780. Who has a birthday this month in April like Reverend William Ellery Channing? Reverend William Ellery Channing was a Unitarian minister, (just like our minister, \_\_\_\_.) He took care of his congregation by giving sermons, meeting with people when they were sick or sad. He helped families when someone died. He tried to make the world a better place. He lived a long time ago. This year (2018), he would have been 238 years old. Reverend William Ellery Channing is not alive anymore. But we remember him for a special reason. He started Unitarian churches! Without him, our church might not be here. He also loved children. He told stories to the children in his church like our minister tells stories to the children of this church.

##### **Story**

##### **Henry Builds a Cabin**

*by D.B. Johnson*

<https://www.amazon.com/Henry-Builds-Cabin-D-B-Johnson/dp/0618132015>

Henry David Thoreau was friends with the family of William Ellery Channing. Use this book to share images of life in the 1800's for preschoolers - chopping wood, reading books, taking walks.

##### **What a Party!**

*by Ana Maria Machado (Author), Hélène Moreau (Illustrator)*

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Party-Ana-Maria-Machado/dp/1554981689>

Over the top Birthday party! If it is just a few days until your birthday, and your mother says you can invite anyone you like to come over to play, be careful! If you don't watch out, you might soon be having the craziest party ever. Before you know it, night could come and go and a new day could begin, and the dancing might still be going strong. In a celebration of neighbors and diversity, an open-ended party invitation results in a raucous gathering of children, pets, and parents (plus salsa dancers and a reggae band!), all feasting on food from all over the world.

##### **Clifford's Birthday Party**

*by Norman Bridwell (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2mj7sr0>

Everyone wants to give their friend Clifford a special birthday present. But the blow-up ball gets blown up, the piñata gets smashed, the sweater is too small, and the beauty parlor gift certificate just didn't seem exactly right. Finally, Clifford gets the best present of all--his family there to celebrate with him.

##### **The Secret Birthday Message**

*by Eric Carle (Author, Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2msv9hR>

It is Tim's birthday. Instead of a package, Tim gets a mysterious letter -- written in code! Tim -- and the reader -- are off, following the clues. And at the end of the treasure hunt is a wonderful birthday surprise!

### **Mindfulness**

Ring the bell and invite the children to get into a comfortable position. Take a deep breath and relax. Image you are with the most gentle person you know, and he is telling you a story. You look into his eyes and you know that he loves children. Imagine that he really cares about you and you know it. You feel safe and happy with this person. You know that you can tell this person anything and they will listen. Imagine this person a little longer in silence. Now wish them a happy birthday!

### **Videos**

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU" Cockatiel Parrot Singing with Words!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5lsewY7dco>

### **Fingerplays and Songs for Happy Birthday**

<http://www.addisonlibrary.org/sites/default/files/Birthdays%20ed.pdf>

<http://www.teachingheart.net/Birthdayunit.html>

### **Song and Birthday Cake**

Sing Happy Birthday, Rev. Channing, blow out candles, and serve the birthday cake or cupcakes for Channing's birthday.

### **Movement and Sunshine**

Rev. William Ellery Channing loved to walk along the beach near his home. Find your favorite place to visit outdoors. Is it a special part of a playground? A favorite tree? A sandbox?

### **Service**

Deliver a cupcake or slice of cake to your minister or lay leader in honor of Rev. Channing's ministry and birthday.

## **Elementary Aged Children (1 - 5th)**

### **Reflections**

Props: a candle and holder

In the 1800's there was no electricity, so if you wanted to read after dark, you had to use a candle. It didn't give much light. Today, we are going to celebrate the birthday of a man who lived when candles were used for light.

Our theme this month is "what does it mean to be a people of emergence?" Today, we are going to celebrate the birthday, on April 7, 1790 of Rev. William Ellery Channing, known as the father of Unitarianism. If it wasn't for Rev. William Ellery Channing, our religion would not have emerged.

Our religion is called Unitarian Universalism. At first, Unitarianism and Universalism were two separate religions. Rev. William Ellery Channing was a minister in the Unitarian Church. Here's a description of him, so we can get an idea of the type of person he was:

He was only 5 feet tall. How tall is that? Average height for an adult man now is 5'9."

He weighed about 100 pounds. That is very slight for an adult man. The average weight now is 196 pounds.

He had large expressive eyes. Here's a picture of him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Ellery\\_Channing#/media/File:William\\_Ellery\\_Channing\\_by\\_Allston.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ellery_Channing#/media/File:William_Ellery_Channing_by_Allston.jpg)

When he was a young man, he did not take care of himself very well. He pushed himself far too hard as a young minister. He would regularly stay up for hours past midnight reading by candlelight. He often slept "on the hard floor without blankets," and he did not eat enough, leaving himself frequently malnourished.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/2017/02/great-end-religious-instruction-legacy-william-ellery-channing/#tIsLsk1fMj2CRj7b.99>

Despite being sickly and weak the rest of his life, he was admired as the founder of Unitarianism as we know it today, valuing the inherent worth and dignity of each human being. At the time, Channing and those folks didn't know what would emerge from their beliefs. Channing knew he had to speak out about what he believed. Good thing he did, because what emerged was the Unitarian belief in the inherent worth of human beings, each person is worthwhile!

### **Story**

*What was life like in the 1800's? This book tells a story of that time. Slavery was an issue when Rev. William Ellery Channing was alive.*

### **Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad**

*by Ellen Levine (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator)*

Book: <http://amzn.to/2qQzSyt>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ2FAzDjK-o>

A stirring, dramatic story of a slave who mails himself to freedom by a Jane Addams Peace Award-winning author and a Coretta Scott King Award-winning artist. Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the

North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom. - Amazon

## Video

Life in the 1800's - How They Kept Warm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1lEnactiKA>

Step back in time to see how this family lived in NY city in the 1800's, the time when Channing lived.

Happy Birthday Sand Art

*It's time to celebrate Rev. William Ellery Channing's birthday.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDjimBQU7k>

Watch the images emerge from the sand!

## Mindfulness

### Imagine Channing

Share the portrait of Rev. William Ellery Channing

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Ellery\\_Channing#/media/File:William\\_Ellery\\_Channing\\_by\\_Allston.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ellery_Channing#/media/File:William_Ellery_Channing_by_Allston.jpg)

Invite the children to get comfortable and listen to Channing's words.

Rev. Channing loved children and valued teachers. He said, "There is no office higher than that of a teacher of youth, for there is nothing on earth so precious as the mind, soul, character of the child."

Here are the words that Channing spoke in 1837 before the Sunday School Society about his vision of religious education, words that continue to inspire many people today:

The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own;  
Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;  
Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;  
Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs;  
Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect of peculiar notions;  
But to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;  
Not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought;  
Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment;  
In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life."

In the next few moments of silence, think of teachers who you have loved and who have supported you. Take a few minutes and think of how a good teacher has stirred up your mind, quickened your power of thought and awakened your soul."

Ring the bell. Return to us. If you are so moved, share your thoughts about the teacher or teachers who came to mind

### Birthday Song and Cake

Sing Happy Birthday, Reverend Channing and enjoy some birthday cake or cupcakes! Who else in the group is born in April and has a birthday?

## **Craft Activity**

### **Kindergarten Art**

Rev. William Ellery Channing discussed children's education with the woman who founded America's kindergartens, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. She knew that Rev. Channing really cared about children's education. Celebrate the spirit of kindergarten with some finger painting, drawing, or other typical Kindergarten activity with all of the children.

## **Games from Channing's time**

There were no video games or computers to entertain children. Sometimes a child's imagination was his or her best friend. Mothers would make dolls for the girls if they were lucky and toys were whittled out of wood for the boys. A tightly wadded piece of cloth could serve as a ball to kick around in the streets. P Some games to play: <https://victorianchildren.org/victorian-toys-and-victorian-games/>  
Jump Rope, Hoop and Stick (with a Hula Hoop), Tops, Rag Ball, Dolls, Books

## **"Sunshine" (connection with nature and our bodies)**

### **Channing's Beach**

For Channing, contemplation of God's mighty works at the Newport, RI beach near his home, made him feel exhilarated to be part of nature. In 1836 he told the Newport Unitarian congregation, "No spot on earth has helped to form me so much as that beach. There I lifted up my voice in praise amidst the tempest.... There, in reverential sympathy with the mighty power around me, I became conscious of power within."

As you walk in whatever outside environment is around you, do you feel connected to a larger web of life? How? Where is your favorite place here, and other places you have visited?

## **Service**

### **Coffee Hour Birthday Cake or Cupcakes**

Decorate a cake or cupcakes to share with the congregation during coffee hour, with "Happy Birthday, Rev. William Ellery Channing!" on it.

## Session 4

### Emergence of Life in the Story of Evolution (Earth Day)

#### Young Children (P - K)

##### Wonder Box

*Place inside: some soil in a bag or small box (include a potted plant nearby, ideally one that needs repotting. If you are repotting, locate a bigger pot, more soil and water. Find a [picture of the earth](#) from space to show to the children. )*

What is in the Wonder Box today? Some soil! We sometimes call it dirt, but actually, the word to use is soil. Can you say it with me? Soil. Soil is what plants grow in. Farmers plant wheat and fruit and vegetables in the soil. There is soil all around our planet Earth. Today is Earth Day!

One thing we can do with soil is to plant seeds and plants. (Show the potted plant) Here is a plant in some soil. There are leaves at the top and roots under the soil. (If you can, pull the plant out of the pot and invite the children to see and touch the roots. If you are repotting it, invite them to gently pull open the root bound roots so they can grow better in the new bigger pot. Then plant it in a bigger pot. Again, invite the children to help gently press the new soil around the roots, and add water.)

There is soil and water all around the earth. The water makes our earth look blue and the soil and plants make our earth look green. (Show the picture of the planet Earth from space, if you have it). Our planet Earth looks like a blue green ball from space.

##### Story

##### The EARTH Book

*by Todd Parr (Author)*

<http://amzn.to/2EplOww>

With his signature blend of playfulness and sensitivity, Todd Parr explores the important, timely subject of environmental protection and conservation in this eco-friendly picture book. Featuring a circular die-cut Earth on the cover and printed entirely with recycled materials and nontoxic soy inks, this book includes lots of easy, smart ideas on how we can all work together to make the Earth feel good - from planting a tree and using both sides of the paper, to saving energy and reusing old things in new ways.

##### Other Earth Day Books

*from Tapestry of Faith, Chalice Children, Earth Day*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/chalicechildren/session36/299962.shtml>

##### Mindfulness

Invite the children to sit and listen to the sound of a bell, a gong, or singing bowl until it disappears. Say something like this:

“We let go of our busy things. We sit so still. We invite the sound of the bell. We listen until the sound is gone. We breathe in and breathe out peace. We feel peaceful. We breathe out and feel love. Breathe in, feel peace. Breathe out, love.” Sit with me for a few more breaths. Close your eyes and image you are floating all around our planet. You are so light that you are floating above the trees, you look down

and see a bird in the tree who sings to you. Tweet, tweet! Now you look around and you gently put your feet on the ground and return to us there in this room.  
Ring the bell to signal an end to the mindfulness.

## **Activities**

### **Earth Book Activities at Scholastic**

<https://www.perma-bound.com/static/TPR/000457831.pdf>

Includes a great selection of Science, Art, Movement and Math activities for ages 3 - 6 yrs. old based on Todd Parr's Earth Book.

### **Make a Worm Bin**

*As suggested by Leah Purcell, Albany, NY*

<https://www.thespruce.com/inexpensive-worm-bin-from-plastic-buckets-2540077>

## **Sunshine (connection to Nature and our Bodies)**

### **Treasure Hunt Outside**

*from Tapestry of Faith, Chalice Children, Earth Day*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/chalicechildren/session36>

## **Service**

Is there a potted plant in the facility which needs repotting? Something in an office? Arrange for the preschoolers to help and use it as part of the Wonder Box activity.



## **Elementary Aged Children (1 - 5th)**

### **Reflections**

Props: *a dinosaur, a bone or fossil*

The fossil symbolizes evolution today. Evolution is one way of thinking about our theme for the month of Emergence. Evolution is the process of emerging life. Life started out as bacteria and emerged into all of the life on earth today. No one could have predicted what kinds of life would emerge. That is one thing about emergence, you can't control what comes out. What life exists on earth? - (Invite the children to name life - plants, orangutans, bees, oak trees, mosquitos, dogs...) Evolution comes from science, and it also part of our religion. As Unitarian Universalists we call our religion a living tradition. That means that we are open to change if we learn new things. We speak about the sources of our living tradition. If we were Christians, the source of our tradition would be the Bible. We UU's have 6 different sources for Unitarian Universalism, and we are open to new sources. (If you have a poster of the sources, show it) One of the sources of our living tradition is the use of reason and the scientific method. On this Earth Day, we celebrate the science of evolution which teaches us how we emerged from very simple bacteria.

### **Story**

#### **From Lava to Life; The Universe Tells Our Earth Story**

*by Jennifer Morgan (Author), Dana Lynne Andersen (Illustrator)*

<https://www.amazon.com/Lava-Life-Universe-Sharing-Children/dp/1584690429>

"'Once upon a time' meets science in a children's picture book that tells the thrilling story of how life emerged on Earth. The second in a trilogy of Universe stories - the first being 'Born with a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story'-- this book picks up the story with the first appearance of life on Earth. It's a thrilling story about how Earth triumphs over crisis to become bacteria, jellyfish, flowers . . . even dinosaurs! The author, Jennifer Morgan, studied evolutionary science and saw its storytelling possibilities when she explained it to her elementary-age son." - Amazon

### **Mindfulness**

#### **Meditation on Ancestors**

<http://thegreatstory.org/ancestors-meditation.pdf>

Invite the children to get comfortable. Invite the sound of the bell. Read this meditation which takes the children way back in evolution, where we emerged from bacteria to humans.

### **Videos**

#### **Symphony of Science - We are All Connected (Sagan, DeGrassi, Nye)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGK84Poeynk>

#### **The World of the Dinosaurs - The Symphony of Science**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation\\_id=annotation\\_187601&feature=iv&src\\_vid=zSgiXGELjbc&v=ige2YBBJeh4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_187601&feature=iv&src_vid=zSgiXGELjbc&v=ige2YBBJeh4)

## Arts and Crafts

### Great Story Beads

<http://thegreatstory.org/beads-kids.html>

Great Story Beads are a symbolic representation of the 13.7-billion-year epic of the emergence of the Cosmos, Earth, Life, and Humanity, told as a sacred story that embraces all other sacred stories (including our own personal journeys). Children learn that they belong to the Universe — and that they have magnificent ancestors!

### **“Sunshine” (connection with nature and our bodies)/ Movement**

#### **Nest Materials for emerging babies**

Invite the children to gather string, small twigs, grasses, small bits of cotton or rag, and other elements which a bird, squirrel or mouse might use to make a nest. Leave them in a branch or a bush.

Or

Invite the children to try to create a bird nest from twigs and grasses they find outside. It will help to have a small box to hold the twigs and grasses.

#### **Service**

As part of Earth Day Awareness, invite children to collect the paper bulletins from the service to recycle. Or collect the paper used in RE for recycling.

## Session 5

### Our Emerging Awareness (Celebrating Diversity)

Note to Leaders: This session engages our children in the emerging conversation about racial justice in our denomination. It was suggested in the Brainstorm Lab on Emergence. There is a new emergence of people's thinking about our role in racism. We used to teach "colorblindness" - that the color of a person's skin shouldn't make a difference. But in that white UU's were naive. For a person of color, their skin tone made a big difference. We are discovering how white privilege has been invisible to whites. For our children, we can widen the conversation to include celebrating all kinds of differences, not only in skin color but in identity and abilities.

#### Young Children (P - K)

##### Wonder Box

*Place inside: a box of skin tone markers or crayons.*

I wonder what is in the Wonder Box today. A box of markers, a special box of markers - it doesn't have red or green. What are these colors? (Spread them out in front of the children.) Let's see what colors these are. (Draw on a piece of paper.) These are special skin tone colors. If we put our hands in together, we can see how many different tones there are to skin. We use these skin tone markers to celebrate all of the colors of people. Each person is different, all are special.

##### Story

##### All the Colors We Are: Todos los colores de nuestra piel/The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color

*by Katie Kissinger (Author), Wernher Krutein (Photographer)*

<https://www.amazon.com/All-Colors-We-Are-colores/dp/0934140804>

##### Shades of People

*by Sheila M. Kelly (Author), Shelley Rotner (Photographer)*

<http://amzn.to/2D8n9bN>

##### The Colors of Us

*by Karen Katz (Author, Illustrator)*

<http://amzn.to/2rcfXdr>

##### It's Okay To Be Different

*by Todd Parr (Author, Illustrator)*

<https://www.amazon.com/Its-Okay-Different-Todd-Parr/dp/0316043478>

It's okay to need some help. It's okay to be a different color. It's okay to talk about your feelings. From the bestselling author Todd Parr comes a reassuring book about being who you are.

##### More books at 10 Great Children's Books that Celebrate Differences

<http://www.courtneywestlake.com/10-great-childrens-books-that-celebrate/>

## Mindfulness

Invite the children to sit and listen to the sound of a bell, a gong, or singing bowl until it disappears. Say something like this:

“We let go of our busy things. We sit so still. We invite the sound of the bell. We listen until the sound is gone. We breathe in and breath in peace We feel peaceful. We breathe out and feel love. Breathe in, feel peace. Breathe out, love.” No matter who we are, we are each special. Sit with me for a few more breaths.

Ring the bell to signal an end to the mindfulness.

## Songs and Movement

### I’m Unique and Unrepeatable

*From Tapestry of Faith, Love Surrounds Us, Acceptance*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/lovesurrounds/session6/170030.shtml>

## Video

### Sesame Street: What Makes You Special?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrPm7BasRBo>

## Movement

Each person is unique and has a unique set of moves. Can you show us some of the ways you like to move your body? Can everyone repeat that? Go around the circle and give each child a chance to choose a movement and have the group repeat it.

## Arts and Crafts

Offer a variety of skin tone markers, crayons, and construction paper as well as regular colors. Invite the children to create a variety of people and families.

## Sunshine (connection to Nature and our Bodies)

Invite the children to create something in the sandbox, if you have one. Each person decides on something different. A hole, a tower, a curve, a squiggle.

or

Take a walk. There are several opportunities in nature to identify variety. While walking with the children, point out the diversity of colors, shapes, and items in our world. Ask the children:

How would it feel to live in a world where everything is the same color?

What if there was only one type of flower? Or tree?

## Service

Decorate the sidewalk for spring!

## **Elementary Aged Children (1 - 5th)**

### **Reflections**

Props: *a book with either a white boy and a dog or a person of color as the main characters.*

These books are one of the ways that UU's and many people in our country are having a big conversation about racism, it is a conversation that is emerging right now which is the reason we are talking about it today. Emergence is our theme for the month.

"Our Unitarian Universalist faith is having discussions all over the country about who is represented and how. We realized that many white people were in positions of making important decisions without people of color." Some of our UU's of color have coordinated a "White Supremacy Teach In" for our congregations. <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/teach-in-resources/>

One of the stories about our emerging awareness is about a girl named Marley Dias. After growing tired of reading books about white boys and their dogs, eleven-year-old Marley Dias started a book drive to collect 1,000 books in which black girls are the main characters. She then gave the books away to children in the U.S. and rural Jamaica.

### **Story**

#### **The Story of Marley Dias and the 1000 books.**

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/02/26/467969663/wheres-the-color-in-kids-lit-ask-the-girl-with-1-000-books-and-counting>

Tell the story from this NPR article or read the article. You might try to locate the books Marley recommends and/or contribute them to the RE library.

#### **Peace Begins with Me**

*From Tapestry of Faith, Heeding the Call, The Call for Understanding*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop3/171770.shtml>

Use this story if you have an older group of elementary aged children, who will be able to understand the concept. Be aware that there are graphic images in the story of an injured child almost dying which might be frightening to First Graders. Use this story to illustrate how we emerge from ignorance to understanding

### **Mindfulness**

#### **Breathe For New Beginnings with JusTme**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=16&v=0eR0JXWmHXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=0eR0JXWmHXQ)

JusTme leads meditation as breathing.

### **Videos**

Show the video about Marley Dias, as recommended in the Teaching Tolerance Activities:

NJTV interview <https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/11-year-old-marley-dias-creates-change-through-1000blackgirlbooks-campaign/>

## Song

### Blackbird by the Beatles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl1cEWetJw4>

Blackbird Is a Woman. The title of McCartney's poetry book *Blackbird Singing*, released last month, comes from the Beatles' 1968 acoustic hit "Blackbird," on the *White Album*. Talking with Sawyer, McCartney revealed the symbolism of the lyrics of that song, which includes the lines, "Take these broken wings and learn to fly All your life You were only waiting for this moment to arise. "I wrote it in the '60s, when the civil rights movement was at its height," he said. "I liked to think of a blackbird as being a kind of symbol for a black woman." <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=127012&page=1>  
What moment toward wholeness is emerging for you right now?

## Activities to Promote the Conversation on Racial Justice

### Discovering My Identity

*From Teaching Tolerance, as suggested as part of the UU White Supremacy Teach In*

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/discovering-my-identity>

If you haven't shown the videos and offered some of these activities about Marley Dias as part of your own White Supremacy Teach In, check it out now. The story and activities are heartwarming and eye-opening as we work on the issue of racial justice and the emerging journey to wholeness. As an 11-year-old, Marley got tired of reading books about white boys and dogs and decided to find 1,000 books with black girls as the main characters. Her campaign took the nation by storm! Use her resources to evaluate the books in your RE library, too!

### Other Activities from the UU White Supremacy Teach in

<http://www.blacklivesuu.com/teach-in-resources/>

Scroll to the bottom to find links for children's activities

## Arts and Crafts

### Gift Catchers

*From Tapestry of Faith, Faithful Journeys, Unconditional Love*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/session2/132188.shtml>

Transform this classic children's paper folding craft into exercise in valuing differences and the emerging understanding of each person's worth.

## Games and Movement

### A Circle That Kept Me Out; A Circle That Took Me In

*From Tapestry of Faith, Faithful Journeys, Be Fair*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/session4/144684.shtml>

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/session4/132274.shtml>

Use Edwin Markham's poem, "Outwitted" as a game to embody marginalizing and acceptance. Our UU faith is working toward the emergence of a deeper understanding of racism and other forms of leaving people out.

### **Can You Guess Who I Am?**

*From Tapestry of Faith, Heeding the Call, Call to Understanding*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop3/171762.shtml>

Offer this riddle as a way of illustrating that you never know what will emerge from something that at first seems different. In this case, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer saves the day after being marginalized. Invite the children to make up their own riddles. As Unitarian Universalists we value and celebrate differences.

### **Celebrating our Differences**

*From Tapestry of Faith, Love Surrounds Us, Acceptance*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/lovesurrounds/session6/170029.shtml>

This activity helps the children understand that the emerging conversation in UUism about racial justice, ableism and trans rights is bringing to light a natural difference in everyone. By understanding that each person is special and different, we begin to be able to accept and celebrate differences in race, ableness and sexual orientation.

Gather everyone in a seated circle, on chairs or the floor. Tell the group you will play a memory game. Ask participants to close their eyes and think about what makes them special or perhaps different than others. Suggest it could be something they enjoy, like soccer; something they can do, such as speak another language, or something they are, such as the only child in their family. Allow participants a minute or two to think in silence then ask them to slowly open their eyes.

Going around the circle, ask the first child what makes them special. Ask them to say, "I am special because \_\_\_\_\_," and then complete the sentence. Then, invite the next participant in the circle to repeat exactly what the last person said and then add what makes them special (for example, "Katie is special because she can ride a scooter and I am special because..."). Go around the whole circle with each participant repeating what previous participants said and adding their own words to the end of the statement.

The last participant in the circle will have to repeat everyone's statements. Suggest the children help one another remember all the words as the list gets longer and more difficult to remember.

If time allows, choose another question to ask and go around the circle the opposite way. You might ask "What is the oddest animal you have ever seen?" or "What makes your home special?"

Ask the group if they were surprised by anything that was shared? How does it feel to talk about being special? Is it hard? Is it easy? End by acknowledging there are many wonderful things that make the people in the group special.

### **"Sunshine" (connection with nature and our bodies)**

Find a wall, a curb, a hedge. We talk about walls, barriers and boundaries between us. We UU's are emerging in our understanding of racism and other ways we keep people out. Can we use this [wall, curb, hedge] to invent a game about keeping out and taking in? Something like Red Rover, come over? Invite the children to be creative. Maybe a head can emerge over the wall and talk to the other side. Maybe a hand can emerge and reach for the other side. Let the ideas emerge!

## Service

Find a book with a hero of a different race, ability or gender identity. Read it to a younger child or group. Ideas for books might be [“I am Jazz”](#) (transgender story), [“I Like Myself”](#) (African-American character), [“Some Kids Use Wheelchairs”](#) (various abilities).



# Chapel

*Here's a format for a Children's Chapel or Circle Time. Mix and match the components to fit your program. We recommend some type of ritual that is the same most every Sunday, to create comfort and memories even with discontinuous attendance. Post the words on the wall so that guests and newcomers can join in. When you offer Multigenerational services, offer these same words as a whole community of children, youth and adults.*

## Welcome Centerpiece

Choose a color for a cloth, a chalice, an offering box, a way of sharing Joys and Sorrows (candles or rocks in water). A green cloth, several items for emergence - a growing plant, bulb or seed.

## Entering

Invite the singing bowl. (Ring the bowl)

"To this quiet place of beauty, we come from busy things  
Pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings."

## Music

**Sesame Street - Ray Charles "Believe In Yourself"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqpaTT6EcXM>

Ray Charles sings with Elmo - a song to celebrate believing in yourself to let you emerge into whatever you will become!

## Chalice Lighting

"We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action." (or your own congregation's words)

## Offering (optional)

"We drop our coins in. We get back pride, to help other people feels good inside."

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

"We listen to each other, it is a holy act

To share our joys and sorrows, with grace it flows on back."

You may always say, "Pass."

If you wish to share, say your name, then light a candle or drop a rock in the water for your joy or concern.

"For all the joys and concerns which remain unspoken, we light this candle/add this rock."

## Meditation on Emergence into Living Wide Open

Move into a comfortable position and close your eyes if you are comfortable.

Relax your toes, your calves, your knees, your hips, your torso, your shoulders. Feel the tension in your fingers and hands be released. Feel your elbows and biceps relax. Take a deep breath and feel your

lungs move deeply and slowly. Move your tongue from the top of your mouth, relax your jaw, and ears, and eyebrows.

Listen to this poem, and visualize each of the images about emerging into “Living Wide Open”

(by Dawna Markova, in Tapestry of Faith, Building the World We Dream About

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwddaya/workshop4/209416.shtml>)

Remain in the poem’s imagery for 10 more breaths.

Ring the bell.

Return slowly to this room, to your body, open your eyes when you are ready. Feel the energy of emergence with you this month!

### **Story, optional**

Use one of the recommended stories/songs For All Ages, or a book from the book recommendations.

### **Songs, redux**

#### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

We gather the warmth of love, the light of truth,

and the energy of action into our hearts

Back into the world of do and say

Carry it forward into the dawning day.

Go Now in Peace, Amen.

*Move your arms to express the actions: gather using a cupping motion from the flame of the chalice to your heart, spread that outward again.*

# Youth and Young Adult

Here are a variety of components for use in your Middle School/Sr High/Young Adult Groups. In addition, check out:

- *The Stories for All Ages section*
- *This month's Soul Matters Small Group Packet (after all, isn't Youth Group a Small Group Ministry?!)*
- *An adult worship service on "Being A People of emergence"*

## Reflections

### Reflection on Intention, Perseverance, Balance, Emergence

How have you responded to each theme during these past few months? The arc of the themes is intentional. In January, you were invited to think about setting an intention. In February, the theme of perseverance gave you a lens with which to keep going on the intention you set. In March, perhaps it was time to balance the intention with real life, as well as balance the challenges of keeping your intention. This month, you are invited to reflect on what has emerged from your intention? Perhaps it is something totally unexpected. One part of emergence is that we can't control what emerges.

*As suggested by Bob Meiss, Livermore, CA*

### Core UU History - How did the UU affirmation of the worth and dignity of human nature emerge?

*From Tapestry of Faith, What Moves Us, Workshop 4, William Ellery Channing*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/movesus/workshop4/282579.shtml>

Channing's 1819 Sermon, "Unitarian Christianity," brought Unitarianism out of the closet and helped Unitarianism emerge as a new religious tradition. In the sermon, he publicly affirmed what liberal Christians had been saying privately: He rejected Trinitarian dogma that made Christ equal to God and Calvinist creeds that demeaned the inherent worth and dignity of human nature.

Human improvement, for Channing, was a divine mandate. Thanks in no small part to Channing, the affirmation of the worth and dignity of human nature became foundational for Unitarian faith. Human nature was now viewed as essentially sacred, perfectible, and moral. Channing's essays, sermons, and discourses during the 19th century sold more than 100,000 copies in Europe and America.

Rev. Channing loved children and valued teachers. He said, "There is no office higher than that of a teacher of youth, for there is nothing on earth so precious as the mind, soul, character of the child." Here are the words that Channing spoke in 1837 before the Sunday School Society about his vision of religious education, words that continue to inspire many people today:

The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own;  
Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;  
Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;  
Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs;  
Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect of peculiar notions;  
But to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;  
Not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought;  
Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the

moral discernment;

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life."

In the next few moments of silence, think of teachers who you have loved and who have supported you. Take a few minutes and think of how a good teacher has stirred up your mind, quickened your power of thought and awakened your soul."

Share the names and qualities of those teachers who came to mind and how they moved you.

### **Channing's Beach**

For Channing contemplation of God's mighty works at Newport beach made him feel exhilarated to be part of nature. In 1836 he told the Newport Unitarian congregation, "No spot on earth has helped to form me so much as that beach. There I lifted up my voice in praise amidst the tempest.... There, in reverential sympathy with the mighty power around me, I became conscious of power within."

Play the sound of waves such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MD0tXdSsnBA>

Sit in silence for a few moments.

What natural environment inspires you to feel the power of the universe around you? When have you experienced moments of insight when in nature?

For more information about Rev. Channing, visit

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/2017/02/great-end-religious-instruction-legacy-william-ellery-channing/>

### **Michelangelo's Emergence**

The sculptor Michelangelo was once asked how it was that he could create such beautiful works. "It's very simple," he answered. "When I look at a block of marble, I see the sculpture inside it. All I have to do is remove what doesn't belong." What can you remove that doesn't belong in yourself? What might emerge by removing what doesn't belong? What beauty is waiting for you to give it a bit more room?

## **Story**

### **Peace Begins with Me**

*From Tapestry of Faith, Heeding the Call, The Call for Understanding*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop3/171770.shtml>

Use this story to illustrate how Raziq Brown emerged from ignorance to understanding in justice making. Use the reflection questions in the exercise.

## **Videos**

### **TED talk Janine Shepherd: A broken body isn't a broken person (for the emergence of a new person)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItDJynTduY&feature=youtu.be>

Cross-country skier Janine Shepherd hoped for an Olympic medal -- until she was hit by a truck during a training bike ride. She shares a powerful story about the human potential for recovery. Her message: you are not your body and giving up old dreams can allow new ones to emerge.

### **Glory with Common and John Legend**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUZOKvYcx\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUZOKvYcx_o)

From the motion picture "Selma" for the emerging conversation about Racial Justice in the UU World.

## Arts and Crafts

### Oobleck

From <https://www.uua.org/youth/library/adults-ministry/deepfun/bond-building>

Parameters: Perfect for a group from two to infinity!

Materials: Cornstarch, water, food coloring, measuring cups and a large bowl.

Measure out 1/4 cup of cornstarch for each person in the group. Add five tablespoons of water per 1/4 cup and mix. Add more water little by little until the concoction is malleable. Add some food coloring. This is some crazy stuff to make and play with. When you squeeze it, its dry and hard, but release it and it melts into a puddle. Dive in! Make sculptures and watch them melt. Talk about metaphors for emergence. Think of new names for the stuff. Read Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss aloud while the group is playing.

## Role Play

### The Emergence of the Understanding of White Privilege

From Tapestry of Faith, Building the World We Dream About, Whiteness and Privilege

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwdaya/workshop4/209399.shtml>

Invite the youth to act out the scenarios through the lens of the emergence of the awareness of privilege and the journey to wholeness in an unjust, racist society. Unitarian Universalists are working hard to emerge from our naiveté about white privilege.

## Spiritual Practice for Easter

### Write your own Lord's Prayer for the emerging Kingdom of God here on Earth.

Video re-enactment of the Sermon on the Mount: <https://www.lds.org/bible-videos/videos/sermon-on-the-mountain-the-lords-prayer?lang=eng>

"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."

— N.T. Wright

As a UU, how might you pray for the best world here on earth?

The Lord's Prayer (also known as the "Our Father") is one of the most common Christian prayers. Jesus taught the people how to pray in this simple prayer. But the prayer loses its power when it becomes something said from memory over and over. A prayer without meaning is something which UU's find hard to accept. So why not make it our own, in our own words?

Visit this webpage, on which there are a variety of versions of the Lord's Prayer, for examples of how the language has been interpreted: <http://home.earthlink.net/~haywoodm/EFM-WriteLordsPrayer.html>

Ask for volunteers to read several of them out loud.

Then, use the template of questions at <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/689/refreshing-the-lords-prayer> and

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/writing-your-own-lords-prayer>

and create your own version of the Lord's Prayer.

Invite each person to write their own version, then share in pairs, then share with the larger group.

Rather than a prayer that is said by rote, your own version will be a radical emerging plan of trying to create a better world.

## Mindfulness

### Breathe For New Beginnings with JusTme

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=16&v=0eR0JXWmHXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=0eR0JXWmHXQ)

JusTme leads meditation as breathing.

### Meditation on Emergence into Living Wide Open

Move into a comfortable position and close your eyes if you are comfortable.

Relax your toes, your calves, your knees, your hips, your torso, your shoulders. Feel the tension in your fingers and hands be released. Feel your elbows and biceps relax. Take a deep breath and feel your lungs move deeply and slowly. Move your tongue from the top of your mouth, relax your jaw, and ears, and eyebrows.

Listen to this poem, and visualize each of the images about emerging into “Living Wide Open”

*by Dawna Markova, in Tapestry of Faith, Building the World We Dream About*

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwddaya/workshop4/209416.shtml>

Remain in the poem’s imagery for 10 more breaths.

Ring the bell.

Return slowly to this room, to your body, open your eyes when you are ready. Feel the energy of emergence with you this month!

## Games

### Deep Fun games for the theme of “emergence”

<https://www.uua.org/youth/library/adults-ministry/deepfun/45594.shtml>

#### Emerging Rhythm Clap (Syllable Clap)

Best for more than 10 people

Have each member of the group clap out a beat corresponding to the number of syllables in their first name. Marc claps once. Alison claps three times. Then have people with the same number of syllables in their names find each other without speaking, by walking around the room clapping out their names. Once the group is divided into subgroups, have them introduce themselves to each other and then to the rest of the group.

Variation: Shake hands in a rhythm corresponding to the number of syllables in your name.

#### Emerging Mural or Collage

Parameters: Perfect for a group from two to infinity!

Materials: Every kind of art supply you can rustle up.

Here is a great way to decorate your youth group or conference space while bonding. Put out the magazines, paints, pencils, paper, scissors and glue, put on some good music (not too loud, so that people can talk), and go for it. Encourage people to make their corner of the project their own, but to interact with and respond to what others are doing.

Variation: Create your art in silence.

Variation: Offer a topic for the art like “Emerging” or “Breaking down the Walls.”

#### Human Knot - Emerging from the Knot

Parameters: 5 to 10 people

(Ask if everyone is comfortable touching hands and be respectful to those who don’t want to

deal with touch at that moment. This is a classic game, but it can also put people very close to each other. Make sure this is ok with all if the participants.)

Stand in a circle. Everyone puts their hands in the center and grabs hold of two different people's hands. Try to untangle the knot into one or two circles without letting go of one another's hands.

Variation: Divide into teams and have a race.

Variation: Try it in silence.

### **Emerging from Stereotypes (Breaking Stereotypes)**

Parameters: 15 to 60 people

Sit or stand in a circle. Ask the group to think of human categories that they fall into and the stereotypes normally associated with these categories. Some examples are: woman, queer, white, student, sister, poor, short. Then ask them to think of ways in which they do not fit into the stereotype. Ask them to voice what they are thinking about when they feel moved to speak. Give an example by making your own statement: "I'm a blond but I'm not stupid," or "I'm a mother but I have my own life." Let the sharing continue until everyone has spoken.

Variation: (Materials: index cards and pencils for everyone.)

Pass out the cards and pencils. Give everyone a few minutes to write down adjectives that they feel describe them as part of a group like young, Irish, straight, or punk. Go around the circle reading out the cards. Choose someone to facilitate a discussion about people's reactions to the words on the cards.

### **Evolution (age 10-adult) — Fave Game for Earth Day**

From Another Unitarian Universalist blog

<https://www.danielharper.org/yaau/2012/09/games-sampler/>

You'll need: 8-24 people (give or take); a pillow, chair, or other seat for each person; 10 to 60 minutes.

Sit in a circle, on chairs or pillows or something to mark seats. The circle roughly constitutes an evolutionary ladder, rising from primitive organisms to more sophisticated organisms. Divide the circle into four roughly equal segments. The first section will contain primitive organisms; the second section, plants; the third section, herbivores; the fourth section, carnivores.

Within each section, each person chooses an appropriate organism, and then comes up with a simple motion to represent that organism (for example, the lowest organism, by tradition, is always Pond Scum; and the motion for Pond Scum is to hold your left hand out in front of you as if you were holding a cup with your fingers curled to touch your thumb, while above that hand and not quite touching you hold your right hand flat and palm down, moving it in a small circle over the left hand). Once you've gone all around the circle, go around again so everyone can try to remember all the organisms and their associated motions.

The highest organism always begins each round. Let's say the highest organism is Human Being, motion: waving. So the person sitting in that seat would say something like, "Human Being [waving] loves Pond Scum [left hand circling over cupped right hand]." That means play goes to the person sitting in the Pond Scum seat. She might then say, "Pond Scum [left hand circling over cupped right hand] loves Redwood Tree [stands and raises hands over head]." Of course that means play goes to the person sitting in the

Redwood Tree seat (which is in that second section of plants), and he might say, “Redwood Tree [stands and raises hands over head] loves Grizzly Bear [makes growly face and holds hands up like claws].” The play should proceed relatively quickly from person to person.

Now if anyone hesitates or uses the wrong motion with the name of the organism or says an organism that isn’t part of that particular game, or otherwise stumbles in the estimation of the other participants, then he or she must go to the bottom of the evolutionary ladder, taking the seat of Pond Scum. Which means that whoever is sitting in the Pond Scum seat then moves up one place on the evolutionary ladder, adopting the name and motion of the organism for that particular seat. And other people also move up until everyone below the person who made the mistake has taken a new seat. That concludes one round.

Whoever is sitting in the seat at the top of the evolutionary ladder commences the next round. Continue playing until bored.

Strategy: Usually, you will want to send the play to people above you in the evolutionary ladder, because the only way you get to move is by getting one of them to make a mistake. However, it can also be effective to look at someone as if you’re going to send the play to them, but then name another organism — with the hope of faking them out so that they start to respond, which could be reason for the other players to send them to the bottom of the evolutionary ladder.

Background: This game has no basis in actual biology at all. I mean, that should be obvious, but with all the misunderstanding the creationists have created over evolution, it seemed wisest to state it explicitly.

## **Architecture of Emergence**

<https://blog.wikimedia.org/2017/12/14/wiki-loves-monuments-international-winners/?1=1>

Architecture can evoke emergence, as in emerging through apertures - windows, doors, openings, holes. Wikipedia featured their photo contest with international monuments, many of which have stunning apertures.

How does your facility’s architecture suggest “emergence?” Is there a high ceiling, a special window or door? What other architecturally salient features exist which evoke emergence or being a people of emergence?

Take digital photos of architecture which evokes emergence or being a people of emergence and share them on your congregations Facebook page or other social media. These photos can be of your facility or from places the youth encounter during the week.

## **Movies with a theme of emergence**

### **Coming Out, Emerging, and Day of Silence for LGBTQ High Schoolers**

The Youth & Gender Media Project is providing FREE STREAMING of their four award-winning documentaries and study guides about trans and gender-expansive youth: “I’m Just Anneke” “The Family Journey” “Creating Gender Inclusive Schools” and “Becoming Johanna”. The films are being used in schools and school districts across the country to promote inclusion and prevent anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying, and harassment. Access to the films and their curriculum guides are available for the entire month of April, 2018 to Day of Silence Registrants. <https://www.glsen.org/day-of-silence/resources>



### **Jesus Christ, Superstar (G) for Easter**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0070239/>

Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, and the subsequent long-running Broadway performance, this film tells the story of the final 6 days in the life of Jesus Christ through the troubled eyes of Judas Iscariot. Too often mislabeled a musical, this film is a "rock opera." There are no spoken lines, everything is sung.

### **Everything is Illuminated (PG-13)**

[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0404030/?ref=vi\\_nxt\\_ap](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0404030/?ref=vi_nxt_ap)

What will emerge is not what you know. A young Jewish American man endeavors to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II in a Ukrainian village, that was ultimately razed by the Nazis, with the help of an eccentric local.

### **This Changes Everything**

<https://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/this-changes-everything>

This film offers hope and a positive outlook for a world in which even a mention of climate change can elicit both despair and controversy. From the first words of the narration -- when Klein talks about being frustrated, even bored, with constant staggering statistics and doomsday predictions about climate change -- it's clear that This Changes Everything wants to be different. And it succeeds, powerfully. Carefully selecting seven instances in which resourceful, steadfast members of vulnerable communities set out to protect their world and livelihood from short-sighted, wrong-headed business interests, Klein and Lewis ask and answer their insightful question: "What if global warming is the best chance we'll ever get to build a better world?"

### **Song**

#### **Blackbird by the Beatles**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo\\_DMGe2v5o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo_DMGe2v5o)

Blackbird Is a Woman. The title of McCartney's poetry book Blackbird Singing, released last month, comes from the Beatles' 1968 acoustic hit "Blackbird," on the White Album. Talking with Sawyer, McCartney revealed the symbolism of the lyrics of that song, which includes the lines, take these broken wings and learn to fly. All your life You were only waiting for this moment to arise. "I wrote it in the '60s, when the civil rights movement was at its height," he said. "I liked to think of a blackbird as being a kind of symbol for a black woman." <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=127012&page=1>  
What moment is emerging for you?

### **"Sunshine" and Service**

#### **1. Easter "Can" Hunt (instead of an Egg Hunt)**

If the traditional model of an Easter Egg Hunt is problematic for you, like it was for Boulder Valley UU Fellowship, try a "Can" Hunt instead. The RE Committee was tired of cheap plastic eggs, competitive, pushy children and more candy.

Rachel Setzke, young mother and member of the RE Committee, collaborated with the Social Action Committee to collect cans for the Boulder County AIDS Project Food Pantry during the weeks before Easter. During the Easter Sunday service, the Youth Groups of Middle School and High School, hid the cans on the front lawn. Just after the service, the preschoolers, then the older children ran around collecting the cans. It was so much fun, the children asked if they could re-hide the cans and do it again.  
Tips:

- Use sturdy baskets for collecting since the cans get heavy.

- Have the person delivering the cans after the hunt, park close by the hunt grounds so all can load the car after the event.

## **2. Day of Silence for LGBTQ support.**

Coordinate a Day of Silence on or near April 27, 2018 in support of GLBTQ Youth.

GLSEN's Day of Silence is a student-led national event organized in thousands of schools, bringing awareness to the silencing effects of anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBTQ students and those perceived to be LGBTQ. <https://www.glsen.org/day-of-silence>

## **3. Visit Sacred Sites in the Epic of Evolution for Earth Day**

[http://www.thegreatstory.org/sacred\\_sites.html](http://www.thegreatstory.org/sacred_sites.html)

Check the lists on the web page above and see if there is a sacred site near you, as developed by the “Evolutionary Evangelists” Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd. How are Epic of Evolution sacred sites different from religious sites? Because the Epic of Evolution embraces all human stories, including all religious and sacred stories, sites that are traditionally held sacred by a particular people or faith are automatically sacred sites of the Epic of Evolution too. This long-term Sacred Site project is intended, rather, to expand our sense (into the biological, geological, and cosmological) of what constitutes a sacred site.

Submit a photo essay about a suggested sacred site or one near you that isn’t on the list.

# Family and Parent Resources

*These resources support parents as they try to live out and engage our themes with their children. We can ask “What does it mean to be a parent of emergence” or “What does it mean to be a family of emergence?” As you use these resources to engage these questions, keep in mind some additional ways to use them with other parents or your church community:*

- *Reflect with those in your family.*
- *Share and discuss them with other parents or another family.*
- *Use them in a Parent Circle that meets on Sunday afternoon or mid-week.*

## Apps

### Botanicula

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/game-reviews/botanicula>

BOTANICULA is a point-and-click adventure game that puts players in control of a quintet of tiny beings that are a cross between insect and plant. Its wordless story -- everything is presented through images -- begins with one of these creatures encountering a spider-like monster intent on gobbling up the big, beautiful tree. Themes of emergence and environmentalism.

### Toca Nature

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/app-reviews/toca-nature>

What emerges from a walk in virtual nature? Parents need to know that like all Toca Boca apps, Toca Nature is totally open-ended, allowing for pure creative exploration. Kids can build natural elements -- trees, lakes, and mountains -- and observe what happens as animals move in and food sources abound. Interaction is slow and calm, just like a peaceful walk in a tranquil forest; kids will need to some patience to quietly observe everything that happens. Unlike a real forest, this one is entirely non-violent: usually omnivorous bears and foxes are content with mushrooms and berries and ignore the cute little bunny rabbits that are hopping around.

## Videos

Celebrate the emergence of new life with these touching YouTube videos.

### Swan Nest and Hatching of Cygnets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TznYGOVLzGU>

Share this 24-minute video together of a pair of Swans who take care of a nest and hatch their babies.

### 10 Amazing Animal Parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0auqYct-K9Q>

A variety of animal parents and how they take care of their young.

## Online Conversation as part of the emerging conversation in UU about racism

### EmbraceRace Community Conversation

<http://www.embracerace.org/community-conversations.html>

An EmbraceRace community conversation online, every 4th Tuesday, starting at 5:30 pm PT, 8:30 pm ET. A free, monthly online series providing information, insights, and resources to caregivers on a range of topics related to race and children. We invite guests with relevant experiences and expertise to join each conversation with the EmbraceRace community.

## Resources for the emerging conversation in UU about racism

<http://www.lreda.org/racial-justice>

A great compilation by religious educators for UU's. Why wait for a Teach In? Be a lifelong learner and educate yourself.

## Articles

### Kindergarten's Radical Advocate

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/kindergartens-radical-advocate>

Elizabeth Palmer Peabody saw her educational work as part of a larger effort to reform human society. She influenced Unitarian minister William Ellery Channing whose birthday was April 7.

### The Peabody Sisters

<http://uudb.org/articles/peabodysisters.html>

More about Elizabeth Palmer Peabody and her sisters, who founded Kindergarten in the U.S.

### Why I'll Teach My Kids About All Kinds of Families

<https://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/teaching-kids-about-all-kinds-of-families/>

## Reflection on Intention, Perseverance, Balance, Emergence

How has your family responded to each theme during these past few months? The arc of the themes is intentional. In January, you were invited to think about setting an intention. In February, the theme of perseverance gave you a lens with which to keep going on the intention you set. In March, perhaps it was time to balance the intention with real life, as well as balance the challenges of keeping your intention. This month, you are invited to reflect on what has emerged from your intention? Perhaps it is something totally unexpected. One part of emergence is that we can't control what emerges.

*As suggested by Bob Meiss, Livermore, CA*

## Movies for families about emergence

### The Prince of Egypt (animated, rated PG) for Passover

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120794/>

The story of the emergence of the Jews out of slavery as told in the Book of Exodus.

"Parents need to know that The Prince of Egypt is a 1998 animated musical feature based on The Book of Exodus .... There are scenes of slaves being whipped, hit, and verbally and physically abused. There are depictions of babies dropped and thrown into crocodile-infested waters. Moses kills a slave driver. While competing against Rameses in a chariot race, Rameses is on a road above the one Moses is on, and Moses looks up and says "it's not much of a view" as Rameses' short uniform exposes his rear. It's worth mentioning that, unlike almost every Bible story presented on film, the characters in this movie are people of color." <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/movie-reviews/the-prince-of-egypt>

### The Fox and the Child for Earth Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLeHjOQWriU>

The emerging friendship between a girl and a wild fox. Scenes with a bear and wolves might make this film too scary for children under 8. It feels a bit like "The Little Prince."

**Lemurs; Island of Madagascar (documentary) for Earth Day**

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/movie-reviews/island-of-lemurs-madagascar>

The emergence and evolution of Lemurs in this film appropriate for children and families, 40 min.

**A Beautiful Planet**

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/movie-reviews/a-beautiful-planet>

Views of Earth from Space, as well as evidence of destruction caused by humans.

**Boy and the World for Earth Day**

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/movie-reviews/boy-and-the-world>

Animated award winning Brazilian film about a boy's emerging journey to find his father from countryside to big city, making it a good film for environmentalism, too.

# Program Add Ons

*Resources to expand or deepen your programming.*

## Calendar Add Ons

### Interfaith:

- Easter - April 1
  - [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/02/easter-eggs-history-origin-symbolism-tradition\\_n\\_1392054.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/02/easter-eggs-history-origin-symbolism-tradition_n_1392054.html)
  - <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/easter>
  - <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/complete-service/eastertide>
  - <https://www.danielharper.org/archive/?p=331>
- Passover - April 7
  - <http://uuja.org/holidays/lit/OrangesandOlivesHaggadah.pdf>
  - <https://pjllibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/march-2013/engaging-children-at-the-passover-seder>

### Unitarian Universalist

- Channing's Birthday - April 7, 1790
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Ellery\\_Channing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Ellery_Channing)
  - <http://uudb.org/articles/williamellerychanning.html>

### National & Cultural:

- Earth Day - April 22
  - <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/earth-day>
  - <https://www.uua.org/blueboat/faith/a-poem-the-earth>

## Theme Add Ons

### Emergence of Unitarianism - Channing's Birthday

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Elizabeth\\_Peabody](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Elizabeth_Peabody)

<http://uudb.org/articles/williamellerychanning.html>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/william-ellery-channing-quotes-biography.html>

### Emergence of Racism Awareness in UU

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/course-im-racist>

<http://www.blacklivesuu.com/uuwhitesupremacyteachin/>

<https://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/white-supremacy-teach-in>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWRYNWvSz0Y&feature=youtu.be&list=PLXSqfWmM95KvCgJFxeZR6-epikAo7lt6>

## Add On Resources from Katie Covey

*Katie creates curriculum distinct from Soul Matters. You can learn more about all she offers at [www.uure.com](http://www.uure.com). If you have purchased her curriculum, here are sessions from it that relate to the theme of emergence.*

### Elementary ages

#### **From Spirit of Adventure:**

Session #21 - Science - Inventions

Session #23 - Building - Jell-O from Unitarian Peter Cooper, founder of Cooper Union.

#### **From Picture Book UU:**

Session #29 - The Golden Rule

Session #30 - Chicken Sunday

Session #31 - Earth Day Birthday

#### **From Picture Book Bible Tales**

Session #7 - Exodus (for Passover)

Session #13 - Jesus by Brian Wildsmith

Session #14 - Mary, Mother of Jesus by Brian Wildsmith

Session #15 - The Easter Story by Brian Wildsmith

#### **From Picture Book World Religions**

Session #13 - The Mountains of Tibet

## **Youth**

### **From Lodestone, Magnetize Your Middle School**

*Race Unit*

Session R#4 - Finding Hope

*UU Unit*

Session #UU6 - Genesis and Evolution

*Socials*

April Egg Hunt



# **Leader Resources**

*Come play and think together!*

## **April Online Zoom Labs**

### **RE Brainstorming Lab on Soul Matters in General**

Wednesday, Apr. 4, 2018 1 p.m. ET

Brainstorm ideas for helpful parts of the packet. What has worked for you and what hasn't.

### **RE Implementation Lab for Creativity (May Packet)**

Wednesday, Apr. 18, 2018, 1 p.m. ET

Katie offers highlights of the Creativity/May Packet and we share ideas on how we are implementing the theme.

Note: The above Soul Matters RE Labs are on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month. We set them at a consistent time, so you can put them into your calendar and plan ahead.

- First Wednesday - Brainstorming Lab on theme in 2 months
- Third Wednesday - Implementation Lab on the upcoming month's theme.
- Implementation Labs are posted on the Soul Matters YouTube Channel at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe2pmT\\_ATh-pbkjF2m7rfOA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe2pmT_ATh-pbkjF2m7rfOA)

## **RE Leader Facebook Page**

Don't forget about our RE Leader Support Facebook page. Here is where our colleagues post bulletin board pictures, share books, and ideas. It's a great on-going source of support. Your colleagues are available to support you at the click of a button and with the ease of a post:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/545202255591601/>

## **Pinterest Page**

Check out the Pinterest page on Emergence. Images and links to the books, videos, activities and more as mentioned in this packet.

<https://www.pinterest.com/soulmattersre/2018-april-emergence/>

## **Inspiration Facebook Page**

Offer your teachers and parents spiritual nourishment and inspiration by encouraging them to join the Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page. Use the memes for your congregational FB page, as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>



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Learn how to join at <http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>