



**Teacher Training
Guide**

**Unitarian Universalist Society
of Middleboro
2018/2019**

**The Fellowship of the
Rings: The Quest for the
Six Sources**

Thank you for volunteering in our RE Program. Without your involvement we would not be able to offer the program that we do.

This presentation is designed to tell you everything you need to know to have a positive and enjoyable experience.



Program Objectives:

Our main objective is for the children and youth in our program to feel **welcomed, valued, loved, and respected.**

When thinking about helping out remember these two quotes:

"The method is the message"

(Angus McLean, Universalist Minister and Educator)

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

(Maya Angelou)

How you are is more important than what you teach. If the children and youth finish their Sunday morning having had fun and wanting to come back next week you will have succeeded!

Have fun the children will too!

**Volunteer for as many Sundays as you feel able.
Ideally we would like volunteers to sign up for a
complete unit (about 5 sessions) but if you can
only manage a couple of Sundays or have a
complex schedule just let the DRE
know and we can work
around your
other commitments.**



For 2018/2019 we will be going on a quest to find the six sources of Unitarian Universalism:

Mystery & Wonder

Wise people from the Past

World Religions (with a focus on Islam)

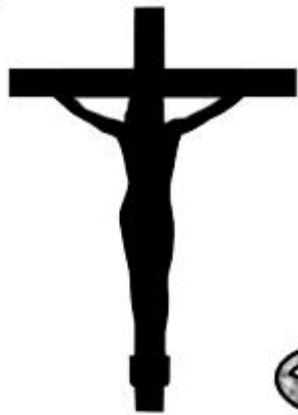
Jewish & Christian Traditions

Science & Reason

Earth Centered Traditions



**September & October (with the
themes of Covenant & Welcoming
the Stranger)**



4th source:



Jewish &

Christian traditions

November (with the theme of Remembrance)

2nd source:



**Wise People
from the Past**



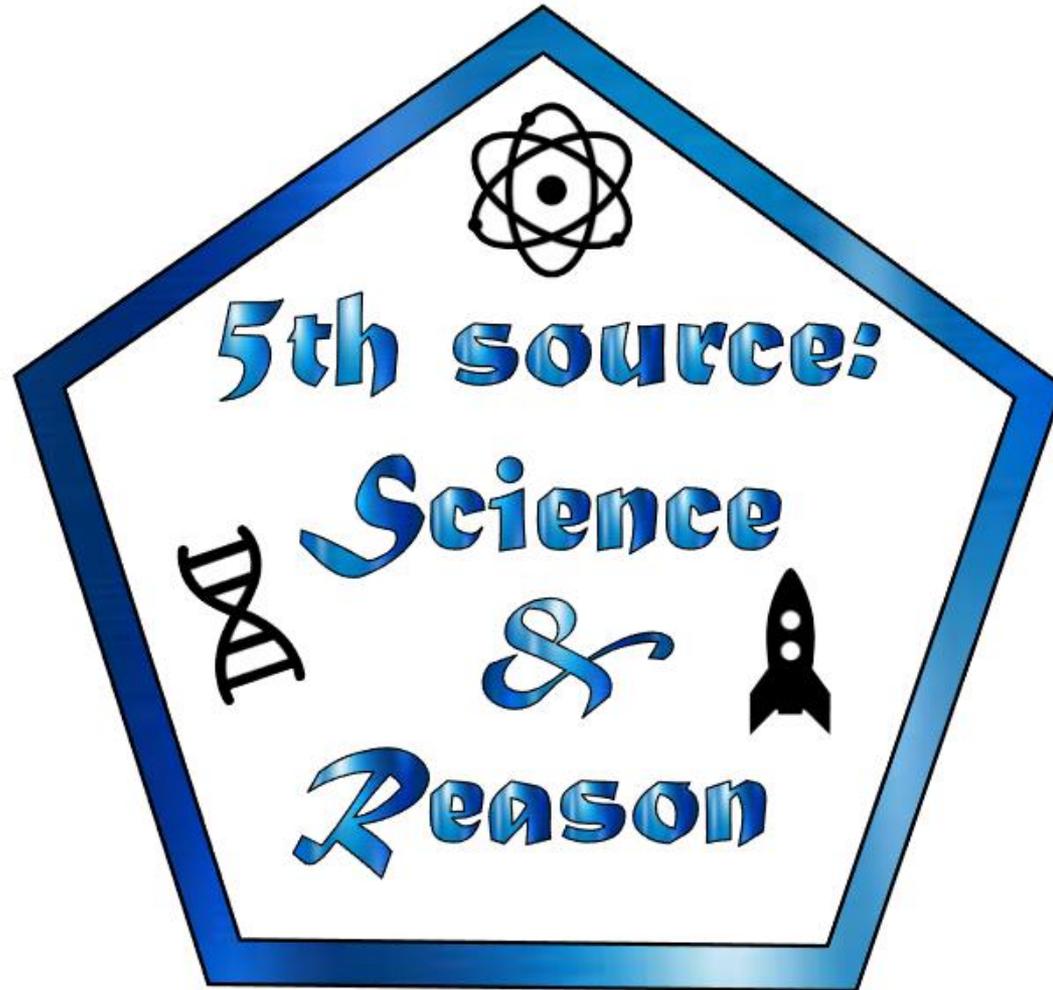
December (with the theme of *Joy* including Pageant)



*January & February (with the
theme of Responsibility & Right
Relationship)*



**March & April (with the theme
of Transformation & Resolution)**



May & June (with the themes of Mystery & Wonder)

1st source:

Mystery

and

Wonder



2121 Spaces: a child centered approach to Religious Exploration

- **In this model the children & Youth choose how they would like to spend their time on a Sunday morning.**
- **After the Message for All Ages in the sanctuary everyone gathers around the rug in the Parish Hall to light the chalice, read some opening words and hear a story that further expands on the theme introduced in the sanctuary.**
- **The children and youth then choose an activity that appeals to them.**

Each week there will be the following Spaces:

Spirit Space: Spending time with the contemplative tools.

Creator Space: Creating Art or Building projects around the theme of the day.

Research Space: for grade 7s and up in Sarah's office. A time for them to further explore the topic in depth.

Questing Space: A time for working on Questing Journals

Other Optional Spaces depending on the theme:

Music Space: Learning a song or piece of music for an All Ages service.

Nature Space: Going outside to explore the natural world or doing a craft project about nature.

Justice Space: Taking part in a Social Justice project

Questing Journals and Rings

The children & youth will receive Questing Journals at the beginning of the year and challenged to complete tasks related to each of the six sources in order to earn a Questing Ring, one for each source.

There will be time each week to work in their journals during RE time or they may work on them at home.

Parents will be responsible for signing off on the work done (which will vary depending on the age and ability of each child or youth).

Nuts & Bolts: Who can be involved?

- ❖ *To help out in our program all adults and youth must have been involved with the congregation for a minimum of six months and have a valid cori check.*
- ❖ *If you haven't had a cori check yet, fill out a cori form and hand to Maria Pucillo-Dunphy along with your license.*
- ❖ *A cori check lasts for three years.*

Safety

- ❖ *To protect everybody we have a rule that there must be at least two adults present with a group of children or youth.*
- ❖ *When the teens are using the Research Space keep the Pocket door open between the Minister's Office and the Parish Hall.*
- ❖ *If we need to evacuate the building, gather the children and escort them out of the Parish Hall door and over to the town hall lawn. Take your attendance sheet with you. The DRE will be the last to leave and will make sure that all the classrooms and bathrooms are empty.*
- ❖ *Young ones grade 2 and under should always be dismissed to a parent/ guardian at the end of the morning.*

Format for the morning:

- ❖ *Please feel free to check in with the leader for the morning before service anytime between **9:00 and 10:15.***
- ❖ *Everyone begins upstairs in service at **10:30.***
- ❖ *After the Message for All Ages, at about **10:45,** we all come downstairs together.*
- ❖ *At **11:25,** we will begin to clear up ready for Coffee Hour at **11:30.** Sometimes we may have a regrouping time on the rug towards the end of the morning.*



Covenant:

At the start of the year we will draw up a covenant (or promise) about how we will behave when together.

Go through this covenant whenever you have a problem with behavior to remind everyone of how we want to be in community together.

Our Moral Compass:

At the beginning of the year the Children & Youth will be given a Moral Compass, based on our 7 principles, which will help guide their decisions as they go through the year:



2121 Spaces Rules:

- **Help those younger than yourself.**
- **You can move between Spaces but you must tidy away what you are doing first and tell an adult which space you are moving to.**
- **Be respectful of others and the equipment.**
- **If someone is doing an activity and you would like to join in, ask them first. If they say 'no' find another activity.**
- **Tidy your things and return promptly to the rug at the end of the session if asked to do so.**

Thank you for Volunteering. My hope is that being involved in our program will allow you to:

- ❖ **Grow in your Faith**
- ❖ **Learn new and important insights**
- ❖ **Nurture your spirit**
- ❖ **Form bonds with others, rooting yourself more firmly within our community**
- ❖ **Fully share in the mission of this church**

**If you have any questions contact the RE
Committee**