

**Winchester Unitarian Society**  
Order of Service  
**May 17, 2020**

**Centering Thought**

“This is a charm for hope. The first thing to do is tie a string around your finger. Remember that you are not alone. Think of the ways that our best shared futures are braided inextricably with your own present and your destiny. The second thing is to untie the string and let the knots and tightness fall away. Let the burden of bleakness roll off your sore shoulders. Resistance on these opaque horizons only requires one source of strength, one ray of light. Remember that persistence doesn’t require all the answers up front. Only one. Fortunately for all of us, we have one response: to remain together through awkward times and happy ones. We remember and we find our resolve in one another.” – Rev. Theresa I. Soto

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Be sure to set your screen to “speaker view” in Zoom (upper right-hand corner of the screen) for best reception of those leading the service.  
Real-Time Tech Support with Zoom/Community Usher: Stephen Perepeluk – 917.716.4831  
*Our motto: “Connection, not perfection”*

Note: Some elements of this service were pre-recorded to ensure broadcast quality.

**Gathering Music**

Rachel Milt

**Community News** (In 140 Characters or Less)

Colette Drane

**Whole Community Greeting & Good News Round-Up** Use the “chat” function to greet others in worship, and, if you have particularly good news, please share it, too. Our Chat Covenant: we only write things we would say in person in the sanctuary.

**Announcements:**

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND GROW**

*If you are reading this on Friday...*

• **What We Owe To Each Other: Discussions on "The Good Place"**

Six Session Series: Every Friday Night from 7-9pm Beginning May 15<sup>th</sup>

Not every television show touches on human morality, philosophy and the afterlife. Nor does every program include a collection of funny and lovable characters, most of whom are dead and some are neither human nor robot. But *The Good Place* offers all these things as a way to explore ancient spiritual questions with a light heart. Join Rev. Heather in watching Season 1 and discussing the questions each episode raises. Through an on-line format, we will watch

two short episodes in real time and then share our thoughts, reactions and ideas with one another. You are encouraged to participate in the whole series but drop-ins are also welcome. Let Rev. Heather know if you wish to participate: [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

- **Music in the Sanctuary, Saturday, May 16th, at 7:00 PM**, We will present three Beethoven sonatas, performed over live-streaming via Zoom and Youtube by Music Director John Kramer (in the sanctuary). An all Beethoven program! A portion of our donations will go to local area Covid-19 relief funds. See Highlights for more details.

*Sunday and beyond...*

- **"The Power of Myth"** discussion group meets this **Sunday, May 17th** for a discussion on "Masks of Eternity" at **12:00 PM**. Please contact Matthew Bronski for login information for the virtual room. He can be reached via [MBBronski@sgh.com](mailto:MBBronski@sgh.com)
- **Calling All Writers!** If you missed the memo, you can join us in week two, after that the group will be closed. The group runs from May 14th-June 18th Thursday mornings 9:30-11:00. Contact Rebecca Kelley-Morgan for information.
- **Winchester Unitarian Society Annual Meeting - Sunday, May 31, 2020** Following the worship service on Sunday, May 31, 2020 the Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom. This will be an abbreviated version of the traditional Annual Meeting to handle the most important articles and postpone completion of additional articles at a Special Meeting to be scheduled on or before September 30, 2020, or as soon thereafter as is safe and practicable. More information about the Annual Meeting will be released in the next few weeks. Thank you.
- **Potluck Theology Returns May 31st at 4:30 PM** with a Virtual Picnic! We will be creating cards and/or posters for (shhhh it's a surprise) Login information will be sent prior to our gathering.

#### REGULAR TOUCHSTONES

- **The Wednesday Night Meditation Group is now on-line!** See the last issue of Highlights or the WUS website for more details.
- **WUS Monday Yoga is now on-line!** See the last issue of Highlights or contact Fritzie Fritzie.nace@gmail.com for more details.
- **Family Worship** Fridays at 4:30 PM **NOTE TIME CHANGE!** Please join us for Family Worship Friday at 4:30 PM. Have a family chalice ready, a candle, and these happy and sad faces, stones or beads or beans or colored paper bits for Joys and Concerns. We look forward to gathering virtually. \*A note to adults - we would like to give the children an opportunity to interact with each other after the service ends. Rebecca will be leaving the room open for another 15 minutes or so and inviting the children to visit with each other. <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>
- **WUSYG:** We're physically-distancing but socially-connecting: \*ZOOMSYG!\* is every Sunday, 4:30-6 pm, which are similar to our regular meetings, and "Weekday Bonus WUSYGs" (WBWs!) are every Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm, which are strictly fun. Youth should use this link to join all of our meetings: <https://hbs.zoom.us/my/haleywegner>

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE AND SERVE

- **Story Time Online:** We are developing a collection of "telling" stories for all ages online, so that families can access them at their convenience. We also would like to have a diversity of storytellers as well. Please contact [Rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:Rebecca@winchesteruu.org) for details.
- **Flower Selfies:** June 14<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate a virtual Flower Communion. This ceremony symbolizes the beauty we find in community and diversity. We need you to make this service possible! Prepare by taking a photo of yourself or your family with a flower or two and send it to Rev. Heather by June 7<sup>th</sup>: [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)
- **Share Your Light:** We would like to create a slide show of our collective candle lighting for

the "kindling the light" portion of our service. Please send a short video of you lighting your candle or a photo of your lit candle to Music Director John Kramer at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

- **We are looking for more Tech Support and Video Coordination volunteers.** Let Rev. Heather know if you are Zoom-fluent and would be willing to be on-call Sunday mornings to assist viewers. Please also raise a hand if you would be able and willing to manage playing pre-recorded segments during our summer services. Thanks!

**Ringing of the Bell** *Today we are called back to worship by the ringing of the bells at our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania on Easter morning.*

**Opening Words**

by Richard Hendrick

Hope Kingdon

**Chalice Lighting**

Brenda Martino and the Rev. Heather Janules

*If you wish to do so, please read together the words for our chalice lighting and light a chalice at home as we light the chalice.*

*We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism  
This is the church of the open mind  
This is the church of the helping hands  
This is the church of the loving heart  
For all these things,  
And each and every one of us,  
The chalice is lit*

**Hymn # 188**

*Come, Come, Whoever You Are*

WUS Adult "Virtual Choir"

*Come, come, whoever you are  
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving  
Ours is no caravan of despair,  
Come, yet again come.*

**First Reflection**

*The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst

Adah Nordan, Elizabeth Sharon,  
Haley Wegner and Sam Wilson

*Attached to this order-of-service is a packet for young children  
so they may engage in an activity concurrent with the rest of the service.  
You may also find these materials here: [\[link\]](#)*

**Blessing**

*May the light within you shine before you, every day, every day.  
May the light within you shine before you guide your way, guide your way.  
May the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.  
May the light within you shine before you, this we pray, this we pray.*

**Congregational Goodbye to Haley**

Sam Wilson, Heather Janules, WUSYG Seniors, Haley Wegner

**Kindling of the Light**

*Prelude No. 8, Book 1* by Claude Debussy

Eli Forcucci

*You are invited to now light a candle of joy, sorrow or concern.*

## Silence

### Hymn #1009

*Meditation on Breathing*

WUSYG "Virtual Choir"  
Produced by Music Director John Kramer

Breathe in, Breathe out.  
When I breathe in I breathe in peace  
When I breathe out I breathe out love.

### Poem

"Spilling the Light" by Theresa I. Soto

Alex Milt

### Senior Statements

Charlotte Bradley, Elizabeth Tian

### Anthem

*Up to the Mountain (MLK Song)* – Patty Griffin

Abby Nordan

### Senior Statements

Evan Forcucci, Rachel Milt, Elizabeth Sharon

### Offering

Arthur Richardson

This morning we share our gifts with **Ferry Beach**, a UU retreat & conference center in Maine. Ferry Beach is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission "to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love." It is also the location of WUSYG's last service trip, and the site of a popular youth camp during the summer for many of our teens. It is currently in danger of shutting down.

You may donate through Give+ [\[link to app tutorial\]](#) PayPal [\[link\]](#) or by mailing a check to WUS, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Please write or type "May 17th Offering" in the memo line or comment field.

Our practice is to invite first-time worship attendees to be our guests. In lieu of a contribution, please complete the Virtual Visitor Card: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSVirVisCard> so we can stay connected beyond this Sunday.

### Offertory

*Alone Together* by Arthur Schwartz

Alex Oslakovic

### Affirmation of Shared Ministry

Rhea Clark

*Those who wish to do so are invited to join in reading together the community affirmation:*

We gather not for ourselves alone, but to use our common power to build the Beloved Community within and beyond these walls.

We create and reaffirm this covenant this day - to make justice flourish, to practice compassion amidst difference and to embody transformative love.

### Bridging

Sam Wilson, Haley Wegner, Rebecca Kelley-Morgan  
Seniors: Charlotte Bradley, Elizabeth Tian, Evan Forcucci, Rachel Milt, Elizabeth Sharon

**Seniors (Evan):** Many of us grew up in this congregation. All of us found a home here that welcomed us and loved us as we were. Thank you for nurturing us and for helping us to form and strengthen our identities. Thank you for creating the sacred space that gave us so many friendships, deep connections, and meaningful moments in our lives. Even as our bodies eventually venture

beyond this community, a part of our hearts will always remain here.

**Congregation (Heather):** We cherish the gifts that you have shared during your time here. We honor your dreams and your visions for who you will become. We encourage you to hold your roots close to your hearts as we set you free to spread your wings.

**Young Adults (Beatrice):** We welcome you with open arms into this next stage of your lives. We know it is simultaneously exciting and terrifying, but we are here to sway in these winds of change with you. We are with you as you embark on this next stage in your transformation. Welcome to young adulthood!

**Hymn # 108**

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

John Kramer

1 My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!

2 What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing!

3 When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,  
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!  
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;  
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!

**Benediction**

by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

Luke Macannuco

**Postlude**

*Blue Skies* – by Irving Berlin, Arr. by Paul Jennings

Elizabeth Sharon, trumpet;  
John Kramer, piano

**Extinguishing the Chalice** *Please join us in reading together the words for extinguishing our chalice:*

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

**Join the Chat!**

**Questions for Reflection**

How have you shown love to, or been shown love from, your communities during the COVID-19 pandemic?

What communities were you a part of as a young person?

What faith rituals have you taken part in during your life?

What are some moments during your childhood that helped form your faith?

---

**Serving Today**

Real-Time Tech Support with Zoom/Community Usher: Stephen Perepeluk – 917.716.4831

Pastoral Care Associate: Vicky Coccoluto – 781-729-9313

Special thanks to Max Mackay for Video Editing, Elizabeth Tian for creating the title slides  
and John Kramer for serving as Video Coordinator

---

*This is a Welcoming Congregation, intentionally welcoming  
and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.*

*Each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic  
gift from people or communities-of-color.*

---

Good morning families and friends,

*A note to adults. The first page is for you, so that you may have context for the service and contents of this packet. Following that there are activities for children, some suggestions for other things to do/try as a family over the week as well as this day and pages for meditative coloring as the service unfolds.*

Today's Worship Service Celebrates our Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (WUSYG) seniors as they bridge out of the group into the young adult community. It matches our May theme of Thresholds well.

This week through the end of May, I will be providing you with some thoughts about the threshold experience of creating and inhabiting sacred space at home on times other than Friday Family Worship and Sunday morning Service. If you recall, in the past two weeks, we began to create sacred space in our home. You were invited to find a home for your chalice, cover it with something decorative and place your chalice/candle on it, find a chime or bell, and a giving bowl for sharing our abundance.

Today some additions to your sacred space are suggested below.

**Symbols:** Our chalice is one symbol we use as Unitarian Universalists, and there are others that can be added to your sacred space. Some people place representatives of the elements of air (a feather) fire (candle), Water (a bowl of water), and Earth (stones or soil in a cup). If you have another faith or spiritual tradition, symbols of those can be placed, a cross for Christians, a star of David for Jews, a crescent moon and star for Islam, a pentacle for Wicca. You get the idea

**Family and Friends:** Some people include pictures of family members in their sacred space, or some tangible item that brings a loved one to mind. You may wish to have pictures of each other. For a fun family project, ask the young people in your home to draw pictures of your family to be placed there. You may wish to have pictures of friends and family who do not live with you but are important to you. You can use these to remember your connections to each other and to those outside of the home. Some families create a weaving on a simple handmade loom \*(instructions in the pages that follow) each contributing to the weaving. Lay it on your altar or hang it on a wall where you can see it. You might want to set up the weaving so that you can work on it during worship or. . .

**Before Worship:** You'll need your chalice, other candles for kindling the light, these pages, blank paper, things to color/draw with. (If you are weaving, you will need, the box base for weaving, yarn, fabric or plastic bags cut into strips. (See what you can recycle, but if you want to keep the weaving don't use plant matter)

As with in sanctuary worship, your children will check in and out, and it bears repeating that attention on something else does not mean they are not taking in the service. Encourage them to come closer to the screen for First Reflections and have some manipulative and the materials attached for them to engage with during worship. If your children are very young, sensory play containers are a great preschool activity. *\*Let Rebecca@winchesteruu.org know if you need ideas on how to DIY sensory play*

You may wish to use the settling in and chalice lighting rituals we use in Family Worship and Religious Education sessions. They may helpful as your family gets ready for our Zoom worship services or for any family worship you wish to create in your own sacred space. You can also begin to add your own rituals. Just lighting a candle and taking a moment of quiet. It can be a time to give space for things going on in the world, or in your home. In my home we pause before a lit candle to remember the many who have died from the Covid 19 illness. Your older kids can probably lead the familiar rituals from our time at WUS, since many of them have. These are linked below for reference.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16eq9h9bnOJAssE8U21wDcj4lJPZkyD-iW96UShQgdmw/edit?usp=sharing>

What shall we do with our week ahead? It's MAY! Here are some things you might want to try with your family this week.

**Today, May 17<sup>th</sup>** In honor of our bridging high school seniors, go look for thresholds or edges, the piece of wood or metal between two rooms, the edge of the garden, the curb between sidewalk and street. You get the picture. This would be a great scavenger hunt. See how many thresholds or edges **you** can find  
Bonus idea: There are a couple of coloring sheets in this packet that would make great messages to send to a Senior High Schooler. Some of them have taught you.

**Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>** Help tidy your neighborhood. Put on some gloves and pick up a shopping bag of litter.

**Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>** : Have a contest to see who can make the most little words out of your street and city name. Or out of your family name. Or out of "Unitarian Universalism." Or out of whatever you choose!

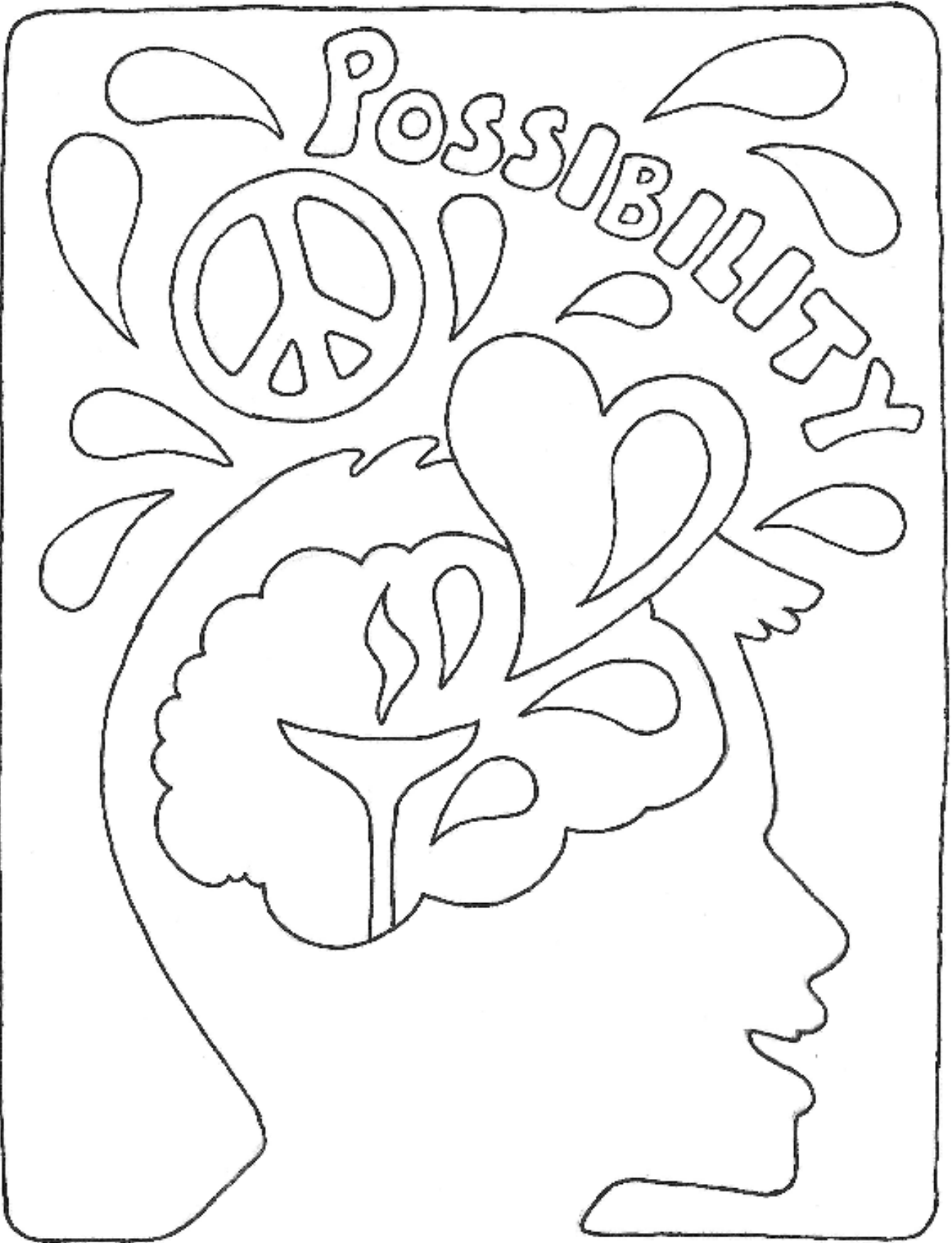
**Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>** Look carefully. Find a place outdoors and measure out a spot about the size of a plate and look very closely at it. How many colors do you see? How many textures? How many insects or other animals? Old things? New growing things?

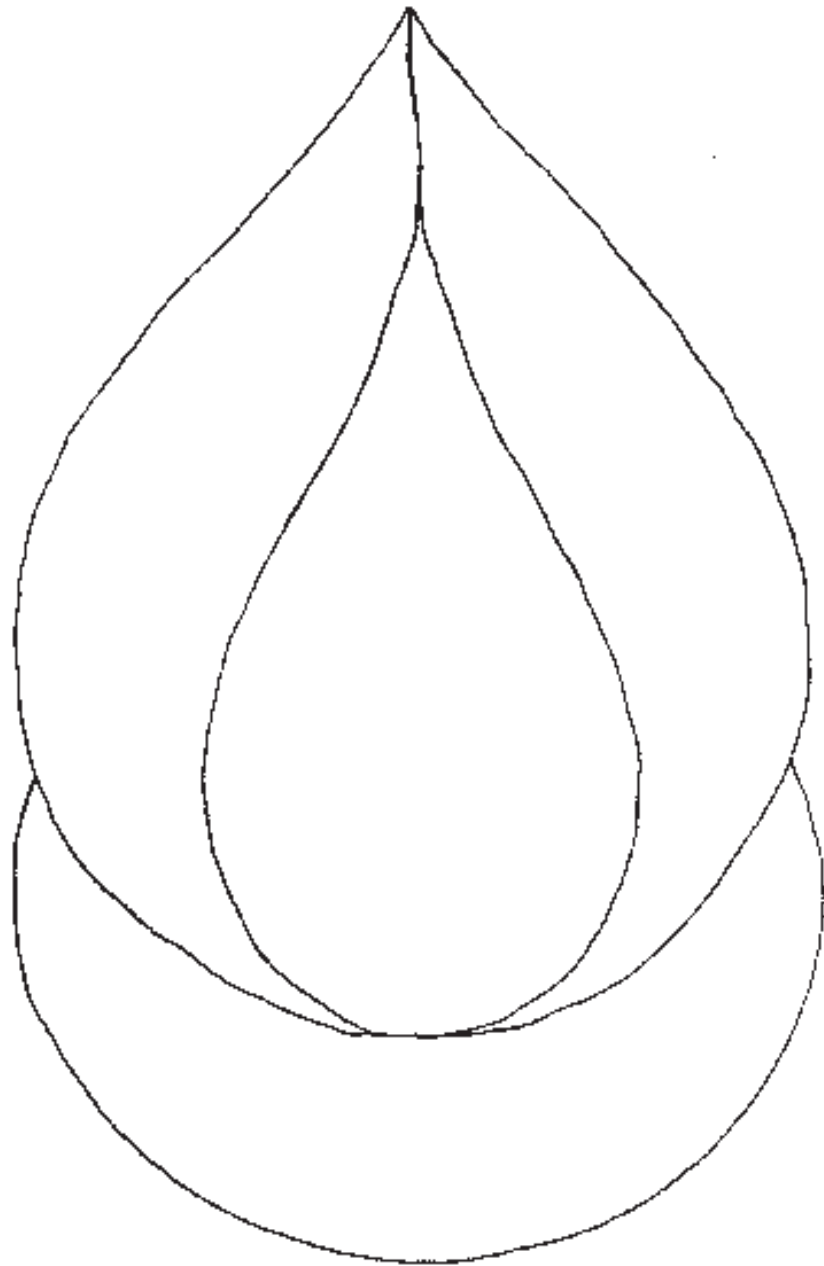
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** Plan to plant something. Did you know that people are happier when they grow some of their own food? You can put a couple of flowerpots in a sunny window, or use bigger containers outside on a step or patio. If you already have a garden with your family, ask if you can use some of it to grow vegetables.

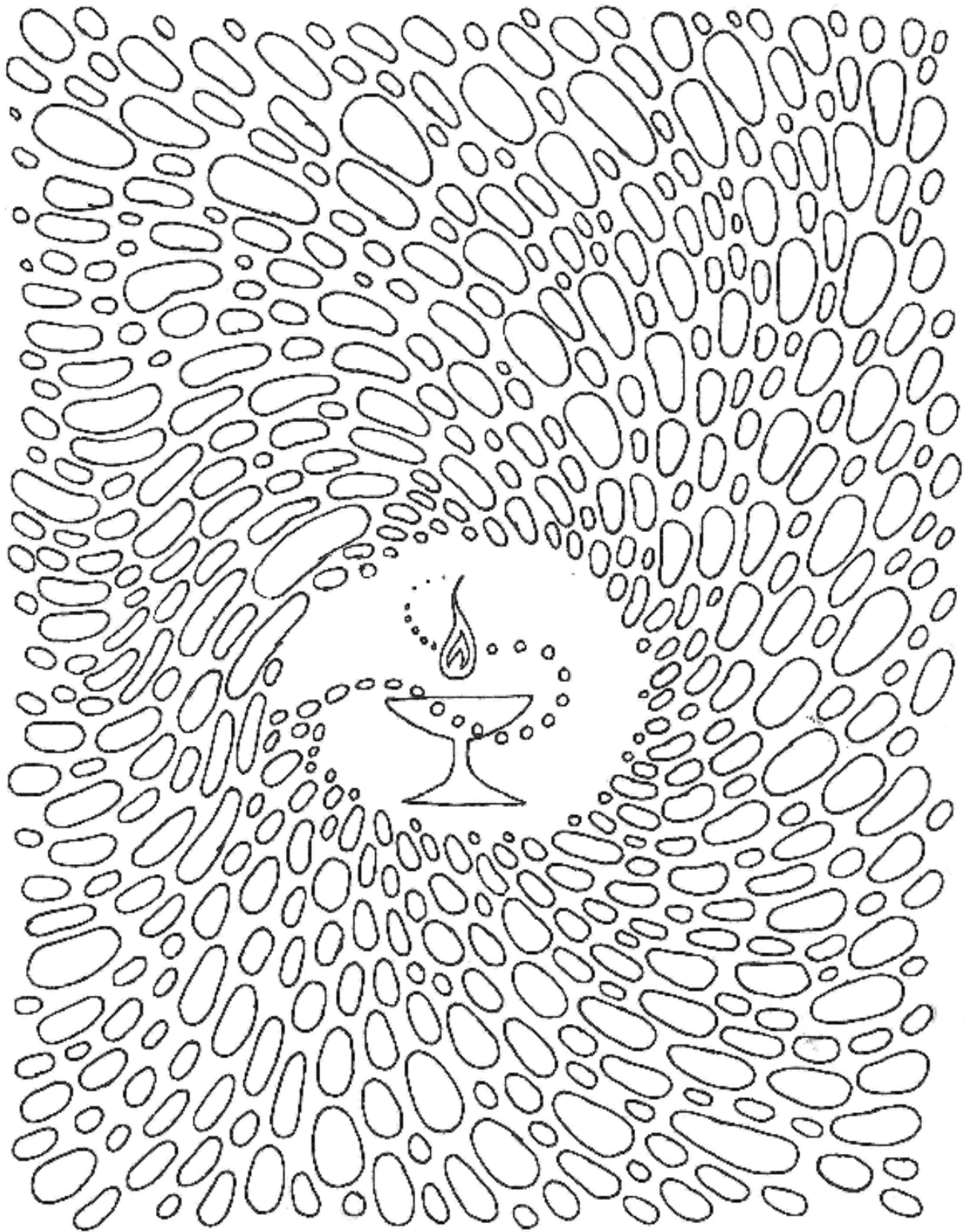
**Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Trying to think of something to talk about? Create a Key Jar to start some family conversations: <http://wearemianguardians.org/wp-content/uploads/KEY-JAR-48-Questions.pdf>

**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>** Find the Moon. Today is the end of Ramadan, a month that is very important in the Islamic faith. People do not eat or drink for a month during the day light part of the day. People also pray and practice charity. Ramadan is a time when people grow closer to their god and to each other. Ramadan ends when the brand new crescent moon is seen in the sky. If the night is clear, go outside and look for the new moon. You might also want to learn more about Ramadan and the meal that ends it – Eid al fitr







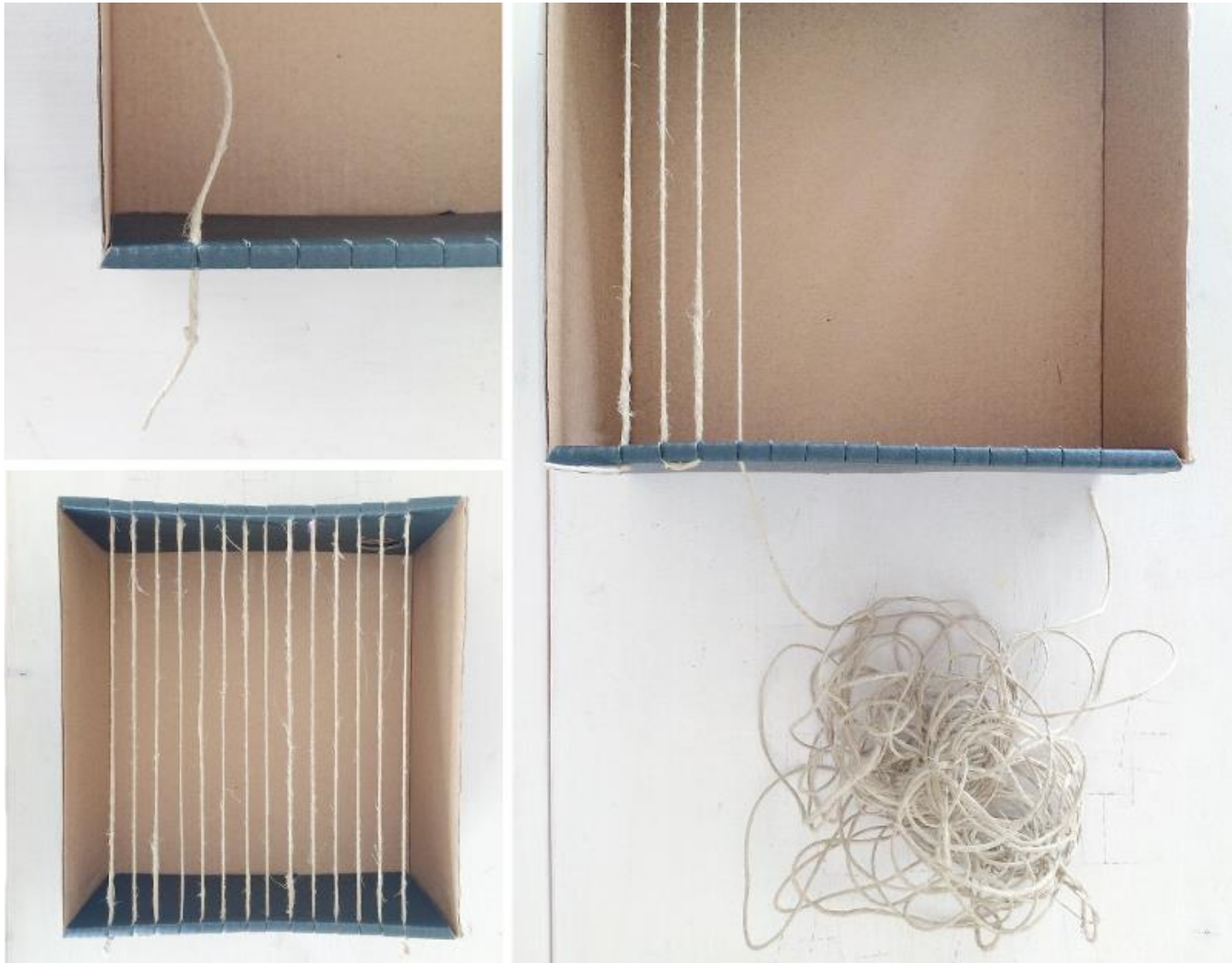


Roots  
Hold me close  
Wings  
set me free...



Weaving loom DIY. These are the things you need:

- shoe box or a larger box if you want a larger weaving
- popsicle stick or a piece of strong cardboard to make a needle
- scissors
- crafting knife
- string, twine, (strong enough to hold up during the weaving)
- and some yarn, thin strips of fabric, or cut up plastic shopping bags to weave



First you need to decide how wide you wish your final product to be and then mark that width on both edges of the box. In between those spaces mark an even number of the lines for the notches about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart (or even more for younger kids) and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep (down the box).

Cut on those marks with box cutting or craft knife and remember to stop at the ½ inch mark!

Now take the string or twine, tie a knot and thread it in the first lower left notch and carry the thread up to the upper left notch and thread through. Bring the twine back down and thread it through the second left notch and Continue this all the way across the loom and finish with a knot.

Done with the loom! Now for the needle. Use a popsicle stick and make a hole through with a thin nail. If you don't have those, draw a needle on a piece of cardboard, 2-3 inches long, cut it out, reinforce with tape if needed at the top and make a little hole to thread the wool/fabric/plastic through. Make a much longer and wider needle for kids under 5 (I recommend about 5 inches long and 1 inch wide)

Cut your weaving material into long strips (shorter for younger kids) thread it through the needle and go: under the first string, over the second, under the third and so on. And remember to leave a little tail at the beginning and the end! Now take another piece and repeat the previous steps. Don't go all the way up, leave a few inches so you can tie it to a twig later on (for display purposes)

At the end tie the loose ends (tails) into knots or weave them back under the woven threads (that's a little more complicated – knots work fine)

If you wish to embellish the weaving with a fringe cut pieces of weaving material as long as you wish and tie them around the bottom loops



Now cut the upper threads (leave the bottom ones!) and tie warp threads two by two together. Take the bottom ones out of the notches – don't cut those!

We also attached the weaving to a twig (another nice way to finally use a few we have lying around the house). In order to do that you need to cut a piece of string or twine and string that through the needle. Starting on one end, loop the needle through the top of the weaving and around the twig, wrapping the twig all the way until the end. Tie knots on both ends and cut the tails.

Finally to make a hanger for the twig, simply cut a piece of twine as long as you wish), tie ends together and fold it over both sides of the twig.

Tip: to prevent the box from sliding around the table, tape a few pieces of double-sided tape on the bottom of the box and paste it in place!