

Dear CUFF Members,

This week, we focus on the Door (or Arch) of welcome, by this we mean, we focus on the welcoming of everyone, for all to feel welcomed. Coinciding with this intention, we celebrate Mother's Day. Naturally these themes play well with each other.

This week, we have less to offer in the activities department, especially if you don't wish to go through with building the "Door of Welcome." However, I've made up for this with a longer story and some more outdoor activities. They're standard outdoor games, but if you have a hard time remembering the rules to some of them, I've left links just in case.

Happy Mother's Day!

(Optional) **Special Preparation for Today:** Create a Door of Welcome from a large piece of cardboard (such as from an appliance box) or several poster boards taped together. Cut out a door in the cardboard. Tape the entire sheet with the cut out door to the doorframe of your hall or room, creating a separate smaller door inside the regular door. Label it the “Door of Welcome.” Later, you may wish to invite the children to decorate it for use during the rest of the month.

Variation: Make a Welcoming Arch, a smaller version of a whole door.

Wonderbox:

print out a chalice from the UUA Clip art site, or use a small one:
<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/uua-logo>

What is in the Wonder Box? A chalice, the symbol of our faith.

Welcoming everyone is very important here at the [name of your congregation.] We say that all of us are welcome here, all of us are loved.

We welcome change, we welcome diversity, we welcome being unique.

Mother’s Day is a great time to open the Door of Welcome as part of our theme of Threshold this month.

Mother’s Day is a time to remember how mothers symbolize love. It also is a time to remember all of the people who care and love.

Our flaming chalice reminds us of the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action. That warmth of love is what the Door of Welcome is all about.

Meditation:

Let yourself relax. Take in a nice, slow, deep breath. And then let it out. Breathe in. And out. Deep. Slow. Breathing in. And breathing out. (Pause)

Today is Mother’s Day. Here in our congregation, we celebrate all kinds of mothers. We celebrate all kinds of welcoming. Listen to the word of this Unitarian Universalist blessing. Then we will hear a Buddhist nun singing a Compassion Mantra. While we listen, hold the people you know in your heart:

**For All the Mothers
Blessing**

By [Lindasusan Ulrich](#)

For all the mothers and mother figures

The grandmothers, aunts, and extended family members who mother

The soon-to-be mothers, the wish-they-were mothers, the never-wanted-to-be mothers, the “it’s complicated” mothers

The birth mothers, foster mothers, adoptive mothers, stepmothers

The “used to be Dad” mothers and “more than one Mom” mothers

The single mothers, separated mothers, stay-at-home mothers, unhoused mothers
The grieving mothers, those who grieve their mothers, and those whose grief is complex
For all the communities that mother
And for all who depend on the Great Mother
You are held — and beloved.

Play Ani Choying Drolma - **Great Compassion Mantra**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81HKh4RMIME>

Story: The Giant and the Fairy Skill

-Motto for the Mother-

*Greatness is not always largeness.
Help your child to understand,
Strength and skill are happy comrades;
'Tis the mind must guide the hand.*

Long, long ago, when there were giants to be seen, as they might be seen now if we only looked in the right place, there lived a young giant who was very strong and very willing, but who found it hard to get work to do.

The name of the giant was Energy, and he was so great and clumsy that people were afraid to trust their work to him.

If he were asked to put a bell in the church steeple, he would knock the steeple down, before he finished the work. If he were sent to reach a broken weather vane, he would tear off part of the roof in his zeal. So, at last, people would not employ him and he went away to the mountains to sleep; but he could not rest, even though other giants were sleeping as still as great rocks under the shade of the trees.

Young Giant Energy could not sleep, for he was too anxious to help in the world's work; and he went down into the valley, and begged so piteously for something to do that a good woman gave him a basket of china to carry home for her.

"This is child's play for me," said the giant as he set the basket down at the woman's house, but he set it down so hard that every bit of the china was broken.

"I wish a child had brought it for me," answered the woman, and the young giant went away sorrowful. He climbed the mountain and lay down to rest; but he could not stay there and do nothing, so he went back to the valley to look for work.

There he met the good woman. She had forgiven him for breaking her china, and had made up her mind to trust him again; so she gave him a pitcher of milk to carry home.

"Be quick in bringing it," she said, "lest it sour on the way."

The giant took the pitcher and made haste to run to the house; and he ran so fast that the milk was spilled and not a drop was left when he reached the good woman's house.

The good woman was sorry to see this, although she did not scold; and the giant went back to his mountain with a heavy heart.

Soon, however, he was back again, asking at every house, "Isn't there something for me to do?" and again he met the good woman, who was here, there and everywhere, carrying soup to the sick and food to the hungry.

When she met the young Giant Energy, her heart was full of love for him; and she told him to make haste to her house and fill her tubs with water, for the next day was wash day.

Then the giant made haste with mighty strides towards the good woman's house, where he found her great tubs; and, lifting them with ease, he carried them to the cistern and began to pump.

He pumped with such force and with so much delight, that the tubs were soon filled so full that they ran over, and when the good woman came home she found her yard as well as her tubs full of water.

The young giant had such a downcast look, that the good woman could not be angry with him; she only felt sorry for him.

"Go to the Fairy Skill, and learn," said the good woman, as she sat on the doorstep. "She will teach you, and you will be a help in the world after all."

"Oh! how can I go?" cried the giant, giving a jump that sent him up over the tree tops, where he could see the little birds in their nests.

"Don't go so fast," said the good woman. "Stand still and listen! Go through the meadow, and count a hundred daffodils; then turn to your right, and walk until you find a mullein stalk that is bent. Notice the way it bends, and walk in that direction till you see a willow tree. Behind this willow runs a little stream. Cross the water by the way of the shining pebbles, and when you hear a strange bird singing you can see the fairy palace and the workroom where the Fairy Skill teaches her school. Go to her with my love and she will receive you."

The young giant thanked the good woman, stepped over the meadow fence, and counted the daffodils, "One, two, three," until he had counted a hundred. Then he turned to the right, and walked through the long grass to the bent mullein stalk, which pointed to the right; and after he had found the brook and crossed by way of the shining pebbles, he heard a strange bird singing, and saw among the trees the fairy palace.

He never could tell how it looked; but he thought it was made of sunshine, with the glimmer of green leaves reflected on it, and that it had the blue sky for a roof.

That was the palace; and at one side of it was the workshop, built of strong pines and oaks; and the giant heard the hum of wheels, and the noise of the fairy looms, where the fairies wove carpets of rainbow threads.

When the giant came to the door, the doorway stretched itself for him to pass through. He found Fairy Skill standing in the midst of the workers; and when he had given her the good woman's love, she received him kindly. Then she set him to work, bidding him sort a heap of tangled threads that lay in a corner like a great bunch of bright-colored flowers.

This was hard work for the giant's clumsy fingers, but he was very patient about it. The threads would break, and he got some of them into knots; but when Fairy Skill saw his work, she said, "Very good for today;" and touching the threads with her wand, she changed them into a tangled heap again. The next day the giant tried again, and after that again, until every thread lay unbroken and untangled.

Then Fairy Skill said "Well done," and led him to a loom and showed him how to weave. This was harder work than the other had been; but Giant Energy was patient, although many times before his strip of carpet was woven the fairy touched it with her wand, and he had to begin over.

At last it was finished, and the giant thought it was the most beautiful carpet in the world. Fairy Skill took him next to the potter's wheel, where cups and saucers were made out of clay; and the giant learned to be steady, to shape the cup as the wheel whirled round, and to take heed of his thumb, lest it slip.

The cups and saucers that were broken before he could make beautiful ones would have been enough to set the queen's tea table!

Fairy Skill then took him to the gold-smith, and there he was taught to make chains and bracelets and necklaces; and after he had learned all these things, the fairy told him that she had three trials for him. Three pieces of work he must do; and if he did them well, he could go again into the world, for he would then be ready to be a helper there.

"The first task is to make a carpet," said Fairy Skill, "a carpet fit for a palace floor." Giant Energy sprang to his loom, and made his silver shuttle glance under and over, under and over, weaving a most beautiful pattern.

As he wove, he thought of the way by which he had come; and his carpet became as green as the meadow grass, and lovely daffodils grew on it. When it was finished, it was almost as beautiful as a meadow full of flowers!

Then the fairy said that he must turn a cup fine enough for a king to use. And the giant made a cup in the shape of a flower; and when it was finished, he painted birds upon it with wings of gold. When she saw it, the fairy cried out with delight.

"One more trial before you go," she said. "Make me a chain that a queen might be glad to wear."

So Giant Energy worked by day and by night and made a chain of golden links; and in every link was a pearl as white as the shining pebbles in the brook. A queen might well have been proud to wear this chain.

After he had finished, Fairy Skill kissed him and blessed him, and sent him away to be a helper in the world, and she made him take with him the beautiful things which he had made, so that he might give them to the one he loved best.

The young giant crossed the brook, passed the willow, found the mullein stalk, and counted the daffodils. When he had counted a hundred, he stepped over the meadow fence and came to the good woman's house.

The good woman was at home, so he went in at the door and spread the carpet on the floor, and the floor looked like the floor of a palace.

He set the cup on the table, and the table looked like the table of a king; and he hung the chain around the good woman's neck, and she was more beautiful than a queen.

And this is the way that young Giant Energy learned to be a helper in the world.

Activities: **Chalice Decoration**

Print out a variety of chalices on cardstock from:
<https://www.uua.org/communications/graphics/web/clip-art>.

Invite the children to color them and decorate an edging or a background. Cut them out to create a pendant or a pin. For the pendant, punch a hole and hang with some yarn. For the pin, add a pin or some double stick tape. Encourage the children to make one for the people they care for you the ones that love them.

Decorate the Door/Arch of Welcome

If you made a special Door of Welcome through which the children entered, invite them to decorate it now. Remove the Door of Welcome (or arch) from the door frame and place it on a table or on the floor. Add decorations to make it a special Door of Welcome for the rest of the month. Make sure some of the decorations are chalices, to represent the UU emphasis on Welcoming.

“Sunshine” - experiences outdoors, in nature, or with movement
Welcome all to play with some outdoor games.

Nature Tic Tac Toe
<https://www.education.com/activity/article/nature-tic-tac-toe/>

Hopscotch
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msiX-xky6Ac>

Four Square
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=bA3CsIIWIWU&feature=emb_logo