



Chalice Home Play



June 2021

Contents

WELCOME

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

Special Note: Check [this link](#) for an overview of the Chalice Home structure and the building blocks for creating your chalice home.

Welcome to Chalice Home's Celebration of Play

Welcome to Chalice Home for June and our exploration of the theme of Play. Each month, we offer two family worship experiences that explore our monthly theme and help us expand our Chalice Homes with additional symbolic objects/tokens.

In our first home worship this month, we explore play by sharing the games which connect us, using a favorite game token or two as the object(s) to add to your Chalice Home. Maybe it is a token from a game which is played over and over again - the one everyone refers to as "the family favorite." Maybe it is that one special game brought out when a beloved family member visits. Maybe it's everyone's favorite game, symbolizing the uniqueness of each family member and how your family takes turns picking family games. This worship will then invite everyone to share what they love about the game and how it makes them feel connected to each other.

In our second home worship, we engage families with the widely loved UU Water Ceremony Ritual, sometimes referred to as "Water Communion." This ritual invites families to collect symbolic water over the summer and then bring it to their congregation's homecoming/ingathering/opening service in the fall. The water is often seen as representing and celebrating the many ways summertime nourishes and restores us, just as water nourishes and restores us. So for instance, some families bring in water from a favorite pool or water park they frequented or a lake where they camped. Others might bring some tap water from their grandparent's house they visited. Some bring water they used to tend to gardens. Still others collect water that represents how water wove fun into their summer days, such as water from squirt toys, sprinkles or slip-n-slides. So much of the water that families collect is about how summer nourishes us by telling us to "Get out and play!" It is that playful spirit of fun and adventure we lift up and prepare for in this second worship ritual.

And in that spirit, we hope this entire month nourishes you too, blessing you with the call to fun, adventure and connection!

Katie, on behalf of the entire Soul Matters team



Family Worship Guide on Play

Here are two family worship rituals for engaging our monthly theme of Play. As always, treat the scripts as inspiration, not rigid instructions. Adapt and enhance as best fits your family!

Worship Ritual One

Play Connects Us!

A Personal Story to Start Things Off

Begin with parents telling a personal story related to the monthly theme. This helps put the worship into context and reminds your children that this family worship is connected to the wider theme exploration that your entire church is doing this month.

So, for this family worship, begin by sharing a favorite game or puzzle that you especially enjoy playing (or played as a child) because it connects your family. For instance, maybe it was a board game, like Monopoly. Or a puzzle that everyone worked on throughout the week. Or a game your family played while traveling on vacations, such as I spy or seeing how many license plates from different states you could spot. Or maybe it was simpler forms of play, like wrestling with your dad or flying kites or an every Saturday trip to the playground. Whichever you pick be sure to explain how it connected you and your family together.

Don't invite others to share their similar stories of playing together as a family yet. Instead explain that what you just shared is what we will be exploring and sharing together in the worship - i.e. How playing together bonds us in powerful and important ways. In other words, use your sharing as opening words.

Centering Sound

Move from "regular time" to "sacred time" by sounding your bell, chimes, ringing bowl, or ringing glass. Here are ritual words to go with your centering sound:

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



Chalice Lighting

We light this flame
and watch it dance.
Like hopscotch or jump rope,
it jumps side to side, up and down
As it plays with the wind and shadow.
May it remind us that play
lights up the joy inside us,
and reminds us how much we enjoy each other.

Centering Music

Here are some centering songs for this time of connecting to the theme through music. Choose one that you like the best. While sitting quietly and listening to the song is a good way to center yourself and your family, it may be hard for younger children to listen for the length of an entire song. If that is the case for you, consider playing only a part of the song or inviting your children to draw a picture while listening. We encourage you to post these drawings on your refrigerator after your family worship as a reminder throughout the week of what you shared together.

This month it might be fun to invite children to draw a person singing (to go with “Come sing...”) or themselves playing with a dog (to go with BINGO).

- Come Sing a Song With Me #346 by Kitsap UU Church Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oisrO48boDQ>
It's easy to add "Come play a game with me" in this [zipper song](#).
- BINGO | The Kiboomers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUNbX_6MYUY
A classic song/game with real dog photos.

The Giving Bowl

Add your commitments of generosity to your giving bowl on your chalice home!

Remember that money is not the only way we are generous to others. So, in addition to or instead of money, consider writing down on small pieces of paper ways you can support others or special organizations this month. Be sure to bring in the monthly theme by talking about how the organization you are supporting helps you heal the world.

Ritual words: *“We drop our coins (papers) in and fill the bowl. Serving others makes us whole.”*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invite each family member to pick up a rock and share something they are thankful for about the past week while dropping that rock into the bowl of water. The aim here is to make room to notice the good things all around us.

After this first round of joys, invite each family member to choose another rock and share something or someone they have a concern for - someone or something they are holding in their hearts and prayers. This is a way to bring the struggles of others into our hearts.

And don't forget that the rocks love being used in this ritual, and they can be pulled out of the water and used again, as "double rocks," if there are more joys and concerns. :-)

Ritual Words:

*"We listen to each other; it is a holy act.
To share our joys and sorrows, with grace it flows on back."*

Enriching Our Chalice Home: Play Connects Us

Inspired by our monthly theme, each family worship ritual guides us in adding a symbolic object/token to our Chalice Home, with each object we add reminding us of a value that grounds our family. As mentioned, this worship invites us to remember the value of play together through sharing our favorite games which bring us closer together.

So, invite each family member to find a playing piece or other symbol that represents a favorite game you play together. For instance, a Jenga block, deck card, game piece, Pictionary pencil, Monopoly hotel, baseball, horseshoe or Boca ball from camping trips, or a piece of chalk used for Hopscotch.

Discussion and Adding Your Symbol:

Before everyone places their chosen object on your Chalice Home, make some time for family reflection using the following questions:

- Why is it your favorite game?
- What memories do they have of playing the game?
- How does the game connect us with each other?
- What kinds of feelings do we have when we play this game together?
- Do you think you will play this game for the rest of your life?

Place the game token on your Chalice Home. Close with these words:

One family member: "Games and play/connect me with you"

Family responds: "We laugh and smile to keep away the blues."



Bless Your Object

“[Spirit of Life and Love], May we continue to play and laugh together. May these games remind us of how we are connected and the fun we have had.”

Setting an Intention

As you bring your family worship to a close, pause for a moment to think ahead about the coming weeks and make an intention - for how you want to act, what you want to remember, or how you want to honor the value of play moving forward.

“In the coming weeks, we promise to share the joy of play by _____”

Extinguishing the Chalice

*“We gather the warmth of love,
the light of truth, and the energy of action into our hearts.
As we return to the world of do and say,
May we carry these gifts forward into the dawning day.
Go now in peace.
Amen.”*

Instructions: Use your hands in a gather/cupping gesture and bring them to your heart. Repeat after the “warmth of love,” “the light of truth,” and the “energy of action.” View Katie’s YouTube video demonstrating how to add a gesture to these words:

<https://youtu.be/GEF4Hdm08oM>



Worship Ritual Two

Play, Summer Fun and Preparing for Water Ceremony

A Personal Story to Start Things Off

Begin with a parent telling a personal story related to the monthly theme. This helps put the worship into context and reminds your children that this family worship is connected to the wider theme exploration that your entire church is doing this month.

So for this family worship, we suggest you start by explaining or reminding your children of the meaning of the UU Water Ceremony. We share more details in our introduction, but the basic idea is to honor the way in which summer nourishes us by telling us to “Get out and play!” (You may also want to explain how combining everyone’s water during Homecoming/Ingathering Sunday in the Fall is a way of representing the ways our lives, journeys and stories mingle together in church life and thereby nourish our entire community.)

Then go on to share what kinds of symbolic water you, your family or others in your congregation have collected in the past, being sure to explain why that’s meaningful and how it gets you excited about what your family might collect this summer.

Don’t invite others to share their similar stories yet. Instead explain that what you just shared is what we will be exploring and sharing together in the worship. In other words, use your sharing as opening words

Centering Sound

Move from “regular time” to “sacred time” by sounding your bell, chimes, singing bowl, or ringing glass.

Ritual words to go with your centering sound:

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



Chalice Lighting

Use this one or write your own...

We light our chalice to remind us
that summertime is almost here.
So much awaits:
Swimming pools and sprinklers,
Water parks and fishing in the lake.
Maybe we will float down the river in an innertube,
or paddle a canoe on a camping adventure or two.
Whatever it is - water balloons or water slides -
may our chalice cup remind us to open wide and take it all in.
For all the joy and play that is on its way,
We light our flame and begin.

Centering Music

Here are some centering songs for this time of connecting to the theme through music.
Choose one that you like the best.

While sitting quietly and listening to the song is a good way to center yourself and your family, it may be hard for younger children to listen for the length of an entire song. If that is the case for you, consider playing only a part of the song or inviting your children to draw a picture while listening.

This month it might be fun to invite children to draw a picture of their favorite thing to do in summer that is connected to water.

- **I've Got Peace Like a River**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7it5W1FVtTs>
- **The Beatles - Here Comes The Sun**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQetemT1sWc>
- **FROZEN | "In Summer" Song - Olaf**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFatVn1hP3o>



The Giving Bowl

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Remember that money is not the only way we are generous to others. So in addition to or instead of money, consider writing down on small pieces of paper ways you can support others or special organizations this month. Be sure to bring in the monthly theme by talking about how the organization you are supporting helps you heal the world.

Ritual words: *"We drop our coins (papers) in and fill the bowl. Serving others makes us whole."*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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And don't forget that the rocks love being used again in this ritual, and they can be pulled out of the water and used as "double rocks" if there are more joys and concerns. :-)

Ritual Words:

"We listen to each other; it is a holy act.

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



Enriching Our Chalice Home

Play, Summer Fun and

Preparing for Water Ceremony

Inspired by our monthly theme, each family worship ritual guides us in adding a symbolic object/token to our Chalice Home, with each object reminding us of a value that grounds our family. This month we honor the playfulness of summer water events and prepare for the Water Ceremony which will take place at the end of summer when our Homecoming/Ingathering services happen in September.

First, remember together: Having already explained what the water ceremony is in your “story to start things off,” make this a fun time of remembering all the ways water has been a part of your family’s summer play and fun. See how many memories your family can name. You’ll likely remember summers at a beach or a pool. Or that awesome slip-n-slide you pull out each year. Maybe memories of fishing, canoe camping or even white-water rafting will come up. And surely each family has had a water balloon fight or two. Whatever it is, have fun being nourished by sharing “summer water memories.”

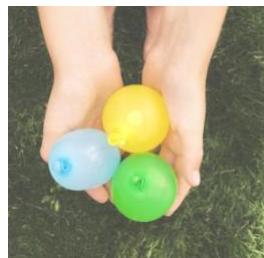
Second, share hopes: Having remembered summer water play from the past, now have some fun imagining all the ways you hope to play with and in water *this* summer.

Finally, place a “water vessel” on your family altar: With all your hopes in mind, find a “vessel” or two that has a connection to one or more of the water adventures your family hopes to have this summer. For instance, if camping and canoeing is one of your hopes, then place a canteen on your altar. If water fights/games are high on your hopes list, then put a few empty water balloons on there. If your family loves gardening together, maybe put a canning/ball jar or watering can up. The goal is to find a fun and distinctive container that will remind you of your hopes and inspire you to actually do it.

Placing the “water vessel: *“I place this jar in honor of the summer fun to come.*

Family responds: *“May we all be nourished this summer by our adventures in the grass, water and sun!”*

And, of course, don’t forget to bring the container with you so you can collect the water from your water adventure and take it with you to Ingathering/Homecoming in September.



Bless Your Object

“[Spirit of Life and Love], We give thanks for this time to imagine what fun we'll have together this summer. We look forward to collecting our water. And just as water mixes and meshes, we're grateful for the many ways our lives mix together and nurture each other. Amen.”

Extinguishing the Chalice

*“We gather the warmth of love,
the light of truth, and the energy of action into our hearts.
As we return to the world of do and say,
May we carry these gifts forward into the dawning day.
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Instructions: Use your hands in a gather/cupping gesture and bring them to your heart. Repeat after the “warmth of love,” “the light of truth,” and the “energy of action.” View Katie’s YouTube video demonstrating how to add a gesture to these words:

<https://youtu.be/GEF4Hdm08oM>

Other Resources and Sources of Support

Soulful Home Family Guides

Parents are invited to explore the themes at home with their family by subscribing to our monthly parent guides, **Soulful Home**. Here's the link to the Soulful Home page on our website: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html>.

There are three types of subscriptions: congregational, family, and gift subscriptions. Check them all out!

Inspiration Facebook Page

Parents receive spiritual nourishment and inspiration by joining the Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Soul Matters Music Playlists

We create two different playlists on the monthly theme each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. Music connects us to the themes in a way like nothing else.

Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month.

Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).



Soul Matters Chalice Home Authors

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Thanks also to the other [Soul Matters Team](#) members who contribute to the content and shape of these packets.

Cover Photo: The Inside Scoop

This packet's cover photo is of Katie Covey's personal Chalice Home. Katie is one of the authors of Chalice Home. The playful doors are an imaginary congregational threshold which she hopes will open to a bright future for all the UU families creating a Chalice Home.

Her orchid was a birthday gift 8 years ago from Rev. Emily Conger and Rev. Jaelyn Pema Scott, back in the "old days" of SpiritJam and Day Camp at Boulder Valley UU Fellowship, Lafayette, CO. It has bloomed twice a year ever since.

The photos are of her son, Brett, who is an ER nurse, and of her brother, Ian, who was evacuated from Nigeria and is home safe.

The bike light and patch kit represent the cycle tours she and her husband love to ride together since they met online.

The chalice was made for Katie by her father, Del Tweedie, from a Juniper branch.

The wooden Giving Bowl is another of Del's creations on the lathe.

The glass container is a recycled spice bottle! The striped rock bowl is an olive oil dish from Barcelona which their daughter brought home for them.

The school bell was given to her father for his service on the Tredyffrin/Easttown School Board in Devon, PA.



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