

# Can You Come Out and Play?

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, Palatine, IL

## Chalice Lighting and Reading

We light this chalice to embrace the child in each of us. The child that knows how to play. The child that is fascinated by keys and dandelions, by clouds and balls that bounce. The child that dreams and imagines and creates wonders out of nothing. The child who is always in the moment yet touches and embraces where dragons fly and horses run free. The child that doesn't yet know the difference between the possible and impossible.

~ Stephanie Certain Matz

## Check-in

### Reading

(Enjoy a minute of deep breathing to leave distractions behind.)

One day a little boy was playing in front of his house, when it occurred to him that he had never seen an adult playing with a red wagon like his. And he burst into tears.

When his mother asked why he was crying, the boy said he was afraid that when he grew up he wouldn't be able to play with his red wagon anymore.

The mother assured the child that when he grew up he could play with his red wagon if he wanted to. That quieted him for a moment. Then he burst into even greater sobs.

The mother asked, "What's the matter now?" The boy replied, "I'm afraid that when I grow up, I won't want to play with my red wagon anymore."

~ Anthony Friess Perrino, *The Numbering of Our Days* (adapted)

## Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

1. Think of a time in your life when you were really having FUN. What were you doing? What were you feeling? Tell us a story about it.
2. What were your favorite ways to play as a child? What made them interesting and exciting?
3. How do you "play" as an adult? Why do you value this kind of play?
4. Compare your childhood play to recreation you enjoy as an adult. Do the differences or similarities indicate anything meaningful about you and your life?
5. Do you ever feel like you just don't deserve, or can't afford to, have more fun? Why?
6. What would you do if you could spend an entire day just playing?

## Check-out/Likes and Wishes

### Closing Reading/Extinguishing the Chalice

May I remember to keep my face to the sun,  
To play, laugh, and experience joy whenever possible,  
To celebrate the world and my fellow human beings,  
To say YES! to life each day.

~ based on "I Do Not Pray" by James Madison Barr