

This Week in Lifespan Faith Development at the Unitarian Church in Westport, CT curated

by Mary B. Collins, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

SUNDAY, Nov.20, 2016 - Parents bring Pre-Schoolers and “wiggly” children to the Lower Level (school entrance pathway) and then

ready Kindergarten & Up children & youth start upstairs for our ALL AGES - THANKSGIVING SERVICE

- **Pre-K & Wiggly Children – in the Lower Level PINE ROOM** – The session is based on the Soul Matters Theme of the month: Story.
THEME: There’s more than one side of a story – LISTENING to what a person says helps us to come closer to understanding them and their experience of life. Often we misunderstand!
Book Options: The Thanksgiving Door by Debby Atwell or The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by John Scieszka **Principle 6: Build a Fair & Peaceful World.**
possible activities: craft : make “I am Thankful for …”book, Game “Telephone”, free play



Adult Program (open to older youth)

On Sunday, Nov. 20,

- Meditation with Janet Luongo – 10:15-10:45 am - Elm Room in Lower Level
- Eliminating Racism – 12:30-2:00 pm – Meeting House – Ground floor
- Transgender Day of Remembrance, 7:00-8:00pm OFF-SITE at Triangle Center, 618 West Ave, Norwalk

Youth Notes:

- Nov. 19th – NO 6-8th Jr. Youth “Weird Food Night” originally scheduled for Saturday. **EVENT CANCELLED**
- Nov. 20 and Nov 27 - NO 9-12th Youth Group on these Sunday Nights- enjoy Thanksgiving service & vacation with your families - *but please be ready for volunteering for...*



WREATH SALES BY YOUTH GROUP will be on Sunday, NOV. 27th & De. 4th in the Courtyard after both services (Small \$20. Large \$40. + \$5. per bow)



HOME Link to Two Articles, a Spiritual Exercise, quote, on the Theme of Story for Adults and older youth:

ARTICLES

- “The Stories We Tell Ourselves”

by Terri Schanks

“The stories of a person, a family, a culture, a country — they hold us, bind us in ways which are potentially fruitful or harmful, and give us an identity.”

<http://www.onbeing.org/blog/the-stories-we-tell-ourselves/7634>

- “Tell Me a Story” by Richard Hamilton

“Our brains seem wired to try to seek out a narrative. It is how we make sense of the world.”

<http://www.dailygood.org/more.php?n=5837>

Spiritual Exercise, Remembering the Wisdom of Your Plot Twist

No one gets through life without a plot twist. Unexpected events happen to us all: a death, illness, a divorce or loss of a job. And it's not always something bad: we get a job offer out of nowhere, stumble into love or learn we are pregnant right away when we thought it would take awhile.

Good or bad, the unexpected event usually comes with an unexpected insight. An important value is clarified. A truth is written in neon lights. All those mundane worries and to do lists are put into perspective.

But over time, that moment of clarity often fades. The plot twist's wisdom is forgotten. Our resolve to remember takes a back seat to those daily to do lists once again.

This assignment invites you to bring the clarity back:

- **Reconstruct and remember the story of your plot twist.**
- **Make time to meditate on it, write about it or discuss it with a friend.**
- **Find an object that represents the insight of your plot twist.**
- **Place that object in a place you will see every day.**

Share your plot twist story and the object that represents the insight it gave you with family or friends. Most importantly, explain why or why not you've decided to keep that object in view for longer than just this month.

QUOTE to contemplate

"Think about every memorial service you've attended. When they read the eulogy about the person's life and accomplishment that is just the 'what' of their life. The thing people want to hear at a memorial service, the thing that brings comfort, stirs memories, invites tears and laughter, are the stories. The novelist Edmund White says 'when a person dies a library is burned.' The stories become the 'how' of a life, and that is how, over time, we remember the person who is gone." ~ **Liz Hill, Soul Matters minister**

Parent News

- **SUN. DEC. 4th - Parent Spirit Group on theme of month: PRESENCE- 10:15-10:45am Contact *Mary Collins* Mary.dre@uwestport.org for details**
- **New or didn't yet? Please Complete REGISTRATION** so we have your permission for your children to be active in our program, and know about allergies, behavior policy and if it's okay if we take pictures of your children. Here's a [2016-2017 Registration Link](#) for PARENTS to give your Pre-K through 12th graders permission to participate.