

**Monthly Theme:** “Curiosity”

**Goal:** Curiosity and appreciation of the power of nature. Unitarian Universalists believe that nature should be honored and respected.

**Chalice Lighting:** Gather in a circle and give each participant a battery-operated candle or light a chalice/candle. Say the following words:

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism (make “U” shapes with thumb and pointer finger), This is the church of the open minds (fingers to head), Loving hearts (hands over heart), And helping hands (hands out palms up)

**Introduction:** Today we’re going to explore spring and the changes in nature that happen.

**Books:**

1)The Happy Day

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+happy+day+book&view=detail&mid=51AD2A6948877637B6F351AD2A6948877637B6F3&FORM=VIRE>

2)The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZSHsGdge7U>

**Activities:**

1) “When Flowers Grow” dramatization and Movement Activity below. Modify for the number of people participating.

2) Make pictures of flowers using cupcake papers, paper stems & leaves. Picture of sample attached. If you don’t have cupcake papers, cut a circle from paper and decorate. If you don’t have green paper for stems and leaves, use white paper and color.

3) Go outside and look for flowers.

Sample



**When Flowers Grow**  
(dramatization)  
by Margaret K. Gooding

*(Background music is helpful.)*

The children are standing. As you move among them, tap each child on the head, saying, "You are a tiny seed being planted down in the ground. Down you go." The child stoops as she or he is planted.

After several seeds are planted, say to the next child, "And you will make a good sun, and the sun stands over there."

Continue planting a few more seeds, then say to another child, "And you would make a good rain cloud, and rain is over here on this side."

When all are planted, continue, "The little seeds are so quiet and still, and the sun shines and makes them warm all over." The child playing sun "shines" over all the seeds.

Then say, "Then the rain comes and chases away the sun, then goes pitter, patter down on all the seeds." The child playing rain "rains" gently on the seeds.

Then say, "Then the sun comes back, and the seeds begin to grow. Ever so slowly they grow and grow and grow until the buds burst open and the flowers seem to hold up their heads to greet this spring!"

**Movement Exercise**  
by Clare Cherry

Say, "We all need plants and flowers so we can live: to feed us, to give us shelter, to inspire us. . . . Now we are going to play a pretend game in which you will pretend you are a tree.

"I am going to give you directions so you can imagine you are a tree. Please keep your eyes closed until I ask you to open them. Now curl into as tight a ball as you can become. Imagine that you are a seed in the ground. . . .

"Now imagine that you have rich earth around you, and water and warmth. And you begin to grow by sending out a shoot upward. Imagine your arm is that shoot, and let it go out and up. . . .

"Now you are growing very quickly. Slowly get up on your knees as you imagine that your

body is the trunk of the tree. . . . And now stand up as you grow bigger and taller and stronger. . . . And now lift your arms as high as you can as you imagine that they are your branches reaching high toward the sun. . . . Now you are a tall and strong tree.

"What do you feel inside about being a tree? . . . Now stay with your branches high in the air, and open your eyes and look at all of the other trees in the forest. . . ."

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