



**Family Take-it-Home**      **Nov. 28, 2018**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> grade & up: Remembering What Really Matters – Children’s Chapel day**

Curated from *Soul Matters* and *Mary Borland, Dir. Of Religious Exploration*

*Believing in the true spirit of Christmas, I pledge myself to...*



REMEMBER THOSE PEOPLE WHO TRULY NEED MY GIFTS.



EXPRESS MY LOVE IN MORE DIRECT WAYS THAN GIFTS.



EXAMINE MY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES IN LIGHT OF MY DEEPEST VALUES.



BE A PEACEMAKER WITHIN MY CIRCLE OF FAMILY & FRIENDS.



REDEDICATE MYSELF TO MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

From  
[Unplug the Christmas Machine](#) by Jo Robinson & Jean Coppock Staeheli

*We look beyond our consumerist culture’s love of money and stuff and work to remember what really matters. To counter the Black Friday and Holiday buying messages all around us*

Our society says getting more and more money and buying stuff will make us happy. But think about it. What about the stuff you don’t really use? After an hour, it sometimes sits in a closet for the rest of the time. Or something that breaks right away? Or something that isn’t quite as good as promised.

There’s another option called “Buy Nothing Day” or “OptOutside” Day which suggest going for a walk or buying nothing. Or at least remembering where your values are and spend money on that. So, what if we could spend money on our values? What do we value? How about: Peace, happiness, love, friendship, family! And instead of complicated toys, **what kind of presents might we ask for?**

- A walk with someone you love.
- Making cookies together.
- Reading a book together – cut out the book mark to the left!
- Making something which is simple to show our gratitude and love.

Here in our community, we can make simple things to decorate for the Winter Holidays, too, like paper chains.

**STORY:** “FINDING BALANCE” a boy, a skateboard, a birthday, and a great idea - FROM <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/session5/132324.shtml>



**SONGS** to watch and sing together:

[Meditation on Breathing](#) if having company is stressful

When I Breathe in, I breathe in Peace,  
When I breathe out, I breathe out LOVE.

[Swimming to the other Side](#) by Pat Humphries sung with descant by Lui Collins

Sing this as she is singing and make harmony (Pachelbel’s canon tune works)  
We are living, We are dwelling, in a grand and awesome time, We can worship, we can cherish, all the ones we live beside



[GRATEFUL: A Love Song to the World](#) | Empty Hands Music | nimo feat. daniel nahmod I can’t stop smiling after listening and seeing this YouTube video!



## Family Take-it-Home

Nov. 28, 2018

### PreK-1st grade: Remembering What Really Matters

*We look beyond our consumerist culture's love of money and stuff and work to remember what really matters. To counter the Black Friday and Holiday buying messages all around us*

**STORY: THE Rolling Coin** (source unknown- adapted by Mary Borland, Director of Religious Exploration and Congregational Engagement, UU Cong. Greater Naples, photo of a coin here is an Oregon Exchange Company \$5. Coin 1849 from [Flickr](#))

A wise old man once owned a precious golden coin. One day, as he sat gazing at this precious coin and rejoicing in its beauty, a thought occurred to him: "It isn't right that I should be the only person to have the pleasure of possessing this golden coin. What use is it if no one shares it? And he went out and gave the coin to a passing child.



The child couldn't believe her luck. She couldn't take her eyes off this shining coin. Then she had a sudden idea: "I'll give this coin to my mother. She needs many things and this coin can help and she will be surprised and happy."

Of course, the child's mother was delighted with her child's thoughtfulness and generosity and the unexpected solution to pay for all the things they needed. She pondered in her mind how to spend it. "What shall I buy first?" As she was thinking there was a knock at the door. A homeless person greeted her. After hearing that person's story, she thought, "This person has greater needs than we do. We have a warm, dry place to stay. We are at least getting by..." and she gave the gold coin away. The homeless person was speechless. That coin could be turned into food for a month!

But back in the subway, where many homeless people found shelter from the rain or cold, a new resident had arrived. The new arrival was thin, blind, and an amputee and missing both legs. The homeless person was moved to see the persistence needed for this person to just to move a short distance. Without a word, the homeless person pressed the gold coin into the new arrival's hand and walked on thinking, "How lucky I am for the gift of sight and the ability to walk so easily!"



Photo from [Flickr](#)

That evening the wise old man walked through the subway and noticed the new arrival and stopped to say "hello" The blind man could not recall the last time anyone had bothered to stop and speak to him. After a while, the wise old man put his arm around the blind man's shoulders and quietly said, "I've nothing left to give you, except my friendship."

A tear rolled down the blind man's cheek. How could he ever repay this gift of human kindness that had changed a dark night into a new dawn? With his shaking, aching hands, he reached into his pocket, brought out the gold coin and gave it to his newfound friend. "Here, to show my appreciation take this! Thank you for stopping to talk to me and for your golden gift of loving friendship. It is the most precious gift."

### Follow up Question: Do you agree that friendship and kindness are the most important gift? Why or why not?

*Affirm all points of view whether money or friendship or the gift of sight and walking, which children may consider the most important gift and conclude with:*

**MESSAGE:** People *do* need a certain amount of money to live in our society for basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and health care. **UU Principle #6 says we need to "build a fair and peaceful world"** and that can't happen if we accept as OK that there are people who aren't getting their basic needs met. When there is unfairness going on we need to tell the stories we learn about, or experience, because that is the first step to invite more people to work towards changing it. That is justice which brings peace. AND it is also true that people can endure a lot of difficulties if they have love and friendship, a community keeps our spirit of hope and happiness alive!

**FAMILY TIME CAN INCLUDE:** Play some holiday music and invite the children to dance and march! Dancing is another way to have fun without money. Moving your body doesn't cost a thing!

- Jingle Bells by the Laurie Berkner Band <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVIs8bQUcXg>
- Tchaikovsky - The Nutcracker – March <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmSoXMfoLeI>

**ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:** Draw pictures of other thing you can have fun without needing money

*(Here are some suggestions: read or tell a story, sing together, take a walk outside, observing birds or insects, making something to play with using items in the recycling bin, make up a game and play it, create a dramatic or comedy skit and perform it, plant seeds from the foods you eat – observe and keep a record what will grow. Help someone else...)*