

# *What does it mean to be a People of Awe?*

## **Family Faith Formation**

### **Books and Readings on Awe**

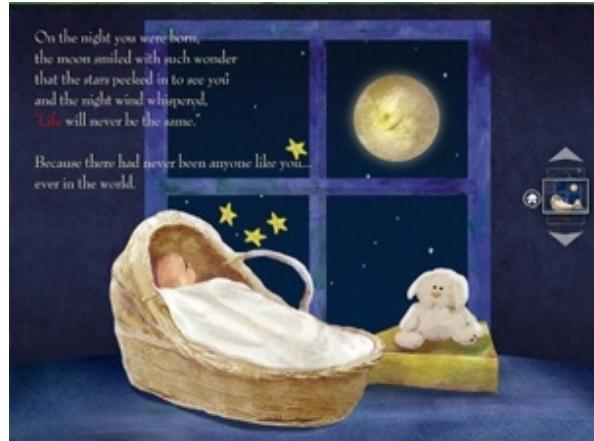
#### **On the Night You Were Born, by Nancy Tillman**

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4Dd0Dkym3E>

"On the night you were born,  
the moon smiled with such wonder  
that the stars peeked in to see you  
and the night wind whispered.  
"Life will never be the same." - Amazon

We are in awe each time there is new life born.



### **Family Activity**

Prepare for Chalica! Chalica is a holiday designed by Daylene Marshall. For those that don't know, Daylene was our Director of Religious Exploration at one time. She designed the holiday in 2005 as a way for families to have a holiday that comes from our Unitarian Universalist principles. It is a week long event with families coming together each day.

Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit, and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following.

To prepare to celebrate, you'll want to gather seven candles that can be lit over the week. Gather around at a mealtime and light your chalice together as a family in honour of each one of our seven principles and discuss ways you are already living out this principle in your daily lives and consider additional ways you can. To get you started:

- Day One, Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – light your chalice for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Additional activities to engage in include helping someone in need, writing to someone in prison, or engaging in a peace offering such as inviting someone to dinner or making an apology to that person.
- Day Two – Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – light your chalice for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. On this day you can spend time in a soup kitchen or donate some of your gently used

clothing. You can also make a promise to yourself to speak up when you see cruel or bullying behaviour – whether it's online or in person.

- Day Three – Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – light your chalice in honour of the acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. For this day, you might want to take time to make yourself a chalice to use at home and discuss what it means. You could also gift the family with a hymnal or talk to an elder in the congregation about what they believe.
- Day Four – Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – light your chalice for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. On this day, take time to teach someone something you know, or learn something new from someone else.
- Day Five – Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - light your chalice for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Take time on this day to work for a cause by writing to your elected officials, or to help the congregation with a task that needs doing or on a committee that needs some additional help. See Rev. Samaya for some ideas.
- Day Six – Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - Light your chalice for world peace, liberty and justice for all. Make plans to join Rev. Samaya from 1-2 pm outside Peninsula United's Sunnyside location engaging in social activism.
- Day Seven – Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Light your chalice as a sign of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. On this day, start a compost heap, plant seeds, or get cloth bags and use them instead of plastic or paper ones

## Family Movie

The True Meaning of Crumbfest

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Scsnf4EYMPo>

A movie that celebrates the wonder and awe of kindness. “Winner of the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children’s Literature; over 17,000 copies in print; animated Christmas special on TELETOON, with the spin-off series Eckhart The True Meaning of Crumbfest is the story of a curious little mouse named Eckhart, who sets off to discover the truth about that most abundant time of year called ‘Crumbfest,’ when bounteous crumbs miraculously appear in the old Prince Edward Island farmhouse in which he lives. ... this a heartwarming tale of the magic that happens when the ‘Outside’ and the ‘Inside’ come together.” - Amazon



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