

Calendar Connections

June 2021 - Play

Click on the name on each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith

- [Solstice, Litha](#) (Wicca/Pagan) - June 20, 2021 (more [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist

- Norbert Capek celebrates first [Flower Ceremony](#) - June 4 (1923)
- Virtual General Assembly - June 23 - 27
- [Olympia Brown](#) was ordained - June 25 (1863)

National & Cultural Holidays

- [Pride Month](#)
- Anniversary of the [Pulse nightclub shooting](#) in Orlando - June 12
- [Father's Day](#) - June 16
- [Juneteenth](#) Emancipation Celebration - June 19 (more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#))
- [World Refugee Day](#) - June 20 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#) (Canada) - June 21
- [St. Jean Baptiste Day](#) (Canada - Quebec) - June 24
- [Stonewall Riot](#) - June 28 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

For Fun and On the Fringe

- [National Garden Week](#) - First week of June
- [National Trails Day](#) - First Saturday in June
- [U.N. World Environment Day](#) - June 5 (Sponsored by a different country each year)
- Celebration of [Senses Day](#) - June 24 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Lesson A:

Playing with Rainbows

(A Rainbow of Colors for PRIDE month)

Theme Angle:

When we think about play, we often think first of something fun; “just for fun.” But play is serious work, “the work of children” according to Maria Montessori, educator.

“According to [Montessori](#), the essential dimensions of play are:

- *Voluntary, enjoyable, purposeful and spontaneous*
- *Creativity expanded using problem-solving skills, social skills, language skills and physical skills*
- *Helps expand on new ideas*
- *Helps the child to adapt socially*
- *Helps to thwart emotional problems”*

With all this in mind, what’s one of the ways our faith guides us in leaning into being a people of Play? It reminds us that “play supports understanding and creativity!”

Introduce It

(Object Lesson)

Understanding and Supporting

Reflection Object: a rainbow flag or a picture of a rainbow.

Suggested Script

Here’s a rainbow flag. Rainbows are beautiful things. They show us colors of light. Rainbows are sung about, and stories told about rainbows. Can you think of some of these? [Over the Rainbow song, the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.] A rainbow is also the symbol of PRIDE month. It means that all of the colors, all of the ways which people are in the world are beautiful. It means that those of us who are LGBTQ have love and PRIDE for who we are.

The theme this month is Play. When we think about Play, we often think first of something fun; “just for fun.” But play also helps us with understanding. For PRIDE month we can play with rainbows in our meditation, in games, in a variety of ways, all of which help us feel the beauty of differences, the support of diversity, the celebration of who we all are.

Lead With Strategy: Who in your congregation has been active in your area PRIDE parade and would like to share their experience of following a rainbow flag and feeling PRIDE?

Tell It and Talk About It (Story)

Option #1. PRIDE; The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ceb6M0PtHhU>

Book: [HERE](#)

“In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. .. A story of love, hope, equality, and pride.” - Amazon

Reflection Prompts:

- Have you ever created a flag? What was it for?
- What does the rainbow symbolize for you?
- Do you hang a rainbow flag for PRIDE?
- How do flags and streamers make you feel playful?
- Have you ever seen the Color Guard in a Marching Band twirl and dance with their flags?

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Option #2. Be Amazing by Desmond Napoles (Author), Dylan Glynn (Illustrator)

Video about Desmond: <https://vimeo.com/306383364>

Book: [HERE](#)

“In Be Amazing, drag kid Desmond is Amazing walks you through the history of the LGBTQ community, all while encouraging you to embrace your own uniqueness and ignore the haters. Desmond is amazing—and you are, too. Throughout history, courageous people like Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and RuPaul have paved the way for a safer, more inclusive society for LGBTQ individuals, and it’s thanks to them that people just like Desmond can be free to be who they really are.” - Amazon

Reflection Prompts:

- How does Desmond's motto “Be yourself always” speak to you?
- Desmond likes to dress up and be playful. How do you like to dress up?

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Meditate on It

(Meditation)

Mindful Moment: PRIDE Mindfulness

We hang PRIDE flags of rainbow colors during PRIDE month. Celebrate PRIDE with a Rainbow Meditation. If your children are younger consider having them draw the color of the rainbow during each pause.

Centering: Let's now get into our meditation positions.

Sit comfortably in your chair or on the floor.

Put your hands on your lap or on your knees.

Sit up nice and tall.

Focus your eyes in front of you.

Find your breath moving in your body by taking in one breath through your nose and then slowly breathing it out through your mouth.

Mindful Moment: Colors of PRIDE Mindfulness

Imagine yourself a cloud in the sky. Floating, relaxed. [PAUSE]

Imagine a rainbow of light shines through and around you as a cloud, with all of the colors arching from you to the ground below. [PAUSE]

Look down the rainbow at each color. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **red** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the red of heart, red of love, red of stop signs. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **orange** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the orange of creativity, orange of dawn, orange of mangoes. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **yellow** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the yellow of power, yellow of the sun, yellow of sunflowers. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **green** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the green of calmness, green of the forest, green of spring wheat. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **blue** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the blue of relaxing, the blue of the sky, the blue of a [Blue Morpho Butterfly](#). [PAUSE]

Imagine the **indigo** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the indigo of mystery and thought, the indigo of jeans, the indigo of blueberries. [PAUSE]

Imagine the **violet** of the rainbow, shining, glowing, the violet of the spirit, the violet of amethysts, the violet of galaxies and nebulas. [PAUSE]

Imagine this rainbow as a beacon of rainbow colors, signaling PRIDE support for all of us.

Return now to this place and time, and carry the rainbow of colors with you throughout your day.

Reflection: How did it feel to be a cloud lighting up the sky with a rainbow?

Explore It

(Small Group Activities and Experiential Learning)

For this activity, invite the children to wear clothing in rainbow colors. We offer a variety of activities so you can extend this into the month or into the summer if you wish.

Option #1 - Mystery Person Game

Mystery Person Game is a “Who Are You?” game, that is, your answers reveal who you are, and who others think you are. For PRIDE month, we celebrate everyone’s uniquenesses.

Players answer each question by typing their answer TO THE LEADER PRIVATELY in the chat box. The leader can print or write the answers to each of the questions in random order to share with the group. Then, the leader reads the answers, “This person feels that blue reveals their personality. Who is it? Then the group guesses who it might be. Keep the correct answer a secret until all of the questions are answered. Next, the leader says, “This person believes that a spotted leopard is the way they see themselves. Who is it?” and so on. Finally, when all of the clues have been read and answered, the group tries to decide who each Mystery Person is.

1. Write down the color that reveals your personality.
2. Write down an animal that portrays the way you see yourself.
3. Write down a song that illustrates your philosophy of life.
4. Write down a car that symbolizes you.
5. Write down a comic strip or TV character that you identify with.

Chat About It Prompts/Questions:

- Who fooled most of the people?
- Who was hardest to guess?
- Were there answers which fit several people? Why?
- Was it hard to decide on one color, animal, song, car or character?
- Who was easiest to guess? Why was that?
- Invite the group to tell why they chose the answers they did.

Leader Tip: Record this for sharing with the parents later!

Option 2. Rainbow of Colors Treasure Hunt Game

Invite the children to a Rainbow Treasure Hunt Game. Find something that is each color of the rainbow, one at a time, then share. ROY G. BIV - Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

While they are searching for each color, play a Rainbow Tune:

Somewhere Over the Rainbow by IZ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_DKWlrA24k

Rainbow Connection with Kermit the Frog <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS3Lkc6Gzlk>

Option 3. Make a Rainbow

- Ask the family to provide a crayon in each color (or send them home in a Care Box.) Tape the crayons together to create a “rainbow machine” which creates a rainbow in one action.
- Use watercolors to paint a rainbow
- Windsock: Make a crepe paper streamer rainbow and staple to a paper plate to catch the wind.

Take It Home

(Home based activities)

This section provides ideas for your weekly follow-up emails to parents, giving them some ways to build on themes and activities you did in your online worship and groups.

Family Sharing Tips & Lesson Follow Up

Possible Script for Email:

“Hello Parents! Here is a recommended book with a PRIDE theme for June:

PRIDE; The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ceb6M0PtHhU>

Book: [HERE](#)

“In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. .. A story of love, hope, equality, and pride.” - Amazon

During the “Explore It” time, we played a game called “Mystery Person.” Play it with your family!

1. Write down the color that reveals your personality.
2. Write down an animal that portrays the way you see yourself.
3. Write down a song that illustrates your philosophy of life.
4. Write down a car that symbolizes you.
5. Write down a comic strip or TV character that you identify with.

Guess who and then share why you responded the way you did.