

**Chalica @UCC** – is a celebration that lifts up our core UU values, one each week for six weeks. In the seventh week we bring it all together with our value of Liberating Love the center of all our values.

There are kits available for anyone at UCC with candles for each week.

Each week this resource will be updated with print copies at UCC, on the website, and in a special edition of our weekly Family Ministry Newsletter.

## Week Six – Interdependence

*This sixth Sunday of Chalica we are honoring the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it. We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality, and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.*

### Chalica Candle Lighting - Orange Candle

When we light our chalice  
everyone focuses on the flame.  
Yet it is the paraffin of the candle,  
the cotton of the wick,  
the potassium chlorate and sulfur of the match,  
and the oxygen in the air around us  
that makes that flame possible.  
As [people] we are not called to be  
a lone beacon on a hill.  
Rather, we are meant to work together  
so that we might, together, shine.  
*By Erik Walker Wikstrom*



### Song

**Hymn #1064, *Blue Boat Home***, has the following lyric:

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.  
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:  
I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,  
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.  
Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,  
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves up holding me, hail the great winds urging me on,  
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:  
I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.



## Exploring Interdependence as a Family - What we do matters to the whole

### The Hidden Web

Beneath every forest floor is a vast hidden network called **mycelium** — tiny threads of fungi connecting tree roots underground. Scientists sometimes call it the “wood-wide web.” Through this network, trees share nutrients, send warning signals, and even support weaker neighbors.

A tree does not grow alone. A forest survives through connection.

When we honor **Interdependence** — the living web of all existence of which we are a part.

We remember:

- We are not separate from Earth.
- Every object has a story.
- Harm spreads — and so does repair.
- Care strengthens the whole.

Just like mycelium, our lives are connected in ways we cannot always see.



### Follow the Threads

**Supplies:** Paper, markers or crayons, everyday object (shirt, apple, phone, bread, water bottle)

**Draw or write the object** in the center of the page. Then begin by asking:

**Where did this come from?** For example, if you choose a T-shirt: cotton farm → soil → rain → farmers → factory → sewing workers → shipping → truck drivers → store → you

**Draw lines** outward like mycelium threads and show all the inputs. Encourage drawing along the threads. Sun, rain, worms, farmers, truck drivers, store workers, family

**For adults or older kids** to add to the drawing:

- Who labored?
- What ecosystems were involved?
- What energy sources were used?
- What animals, plants, minerals were needed?

*You will quickly see that your object is connected to hundreds — maybe thousands — of living beings.*

Here are some links to illustrate some of these connections.

[Factory Visits - Mister Rogers' Neighborhood](https://www.misterrogers.org/articles/factory_visits/) ([https://www.misterrogers.org/articles/factory\\_visits/](https://www.misterrogers.org/articles/factory_visits/))

[A Typical Fashion Supply Chain](https://www.projectcece.com/blog/407/the-journey-of-your-clothing-a-typical-fashion-supply-chain/)

(<https://www.projectcece.com/blog/407/the-journey-of-your-clothing-a-typical-fashion-supply-chain/> )

[Where Does Your Phone Come From?](https://youtu.be/cKvGzS8LYbY?si=0hu1PxmTXndGQoDR) (<https://youtu.be/cKvGzS8LYbY?si=0hu1PxmTXndGQoDR>)



## When a Thread Is Strained - For older children and adults

After mapping the network, ask:

- Where might harm happen in this chain?
- Who might not be treated fairly?
- How might Earth be affected?
- Who benefits most?
- Who carries the cost?

*What would repair look like?*

Examples:

- Buying secondhand
- Choosing fair trade
- Reducing waste
- Supporting local makers
- Writing to companies
- Learning more before buying
- Learn more about effective recycling

**Add new “repair threads”** to your drawing in a different color.



### Wondering Prompts for the Week - Use at dinner or in the car

1. What surprised you about this object’s journey?
2. What connections were invisible before?
3. How does knowing this change how you feel?
4. Where do you see beauty in interdependence?
5. Where do you see injustice?
6. What happens when one strand is damaged?
7. How are humans like trees in a forest?
8. How do justice and interdependence connect?
9. What surprised you about the web behind your object?



### Action: Strengthening the Network

As a family, choose one commitment:



#### Earth Care

- Repair something instead of replacing it
- Reduce clothing purchases this month
- Compost or reduce waste
- Support local farmers



#### Relationship Care

- Repair a strained relationship
- Write a thank-you note
- Check on a neighbor



#### Justice Care

- Research ethical brands
- Donate gently used clothing
- Learn about labor practices