

## The Light Within

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.” --Gospel of Matthew 5: 14

“Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.” --Maya Angelou, Poet



One of our interest groups activities at Silver Lake involves creating miniature frames for mirrors out of sculpy clay (see photo). We take a moment to look in the mirror and think about the gifts within us. We remember the importance of mirroring appreciations for one another. Then we practice catching sunlight and reflecting the circles of light around camp. This exercise becomes a way to talk about God as the source of light and love. It helps us remember that each of us is called to share that light with others.

This activity also leads to the question, “Have you ever thought about working for God?” It is not that we are encouraging all youth to go to seminary or pursue a path of ordination, but instead to consider how they can use their gifts to help build up God’s realm. After all, discipleship is a dynamic process.

In the United Church of Christ, we claim the ‘Priesthood of ALL believers,’ and we define ‘Working for God’ as a role for everyone to embrace. You can be a farmer or musician, a teacher or artist, a health care worker or a journalist and work for God. This statement recognizes that each of us not only blessed with gifts for ministry, but also called by God to use those gifts to bring healing to the world.

The question of discernment is important to revisit at all ages. What is it that makes me fully alive, and brings me joy? What can I do to make God’s love real right now? What part of God’s creation calls to my unique talents and passions?

**Pause, Listen, and Ponder:** (Consider the questions above on your own or with your child)

Music by Keb’ Mo’ *Let Your Light Shine* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyrRChQ0d5M>

**Prayer:** Loving God, I give thanks for the light that you have placed in my heart. Help me look closely to see the possibilities in my life and help me to pay attention to the things that bring me joy. Give me courage to share your light in places of despair and struggle. Amen