



Religious Education for Children at UFWC

September 2009 – June 2010

*Offering Sunday programming for Children and
Youth, and Nursery care for children under 3*

Our Mission is . . .

- to provide the children of our Congregation with a positive experience of a faith community,
- to educate them in Unitarian Universalist principles and values,
- to empower them to embark on a path of personal faith development,
- to create in them an awareness and appreciation of the major faith traditions that shape our world,
- and to provide opportunities for them to put our Unitarian Universalist Principles into action.

Meeting Times

9 - 10:00 a.m. **Pre-K through 6th Grade**
Way Cool Sunday School

7th/8th Grade:
Neighboring Faiths

9 - 10:30 a.m. **9th/10th Grade: Coming of Age**

10:45 a.m. **Youth Group** (*unless announced
otherwise*)

All classes and Youth Group meetings are held downstairs.

Registration

Annual registration is required for all students regularly attending our RE Program. Registering your child in RE helps us with planning, ensures that you receive emails/other mailings from the RE Committee and the Director of Religious Education (DRE), and provides us with information about special needs, allergies and other information important to your child's health and safety. The Permissions for signature on the Form allow your child to take part in local (walking) field trips, and for his/her photo to appear anonymously on our website.

Support teachers

Our classroom teachers are members of the Fellowship who volunteer their time to prepare lessons and teach on Sunday mornings. Their commitment to your children is what drives our Program. Please support them by helping in the following ways:

1. Pick up your children, from Pre-K through 6th grade immediately after the service; they will not be dismissed from class. Teachers, too, would like to enjoy coffee hour and conversation. Honor them by retrieving your children promptly. If the service is finished early, please wait until 10:00 to retrieve your children.

2. Review appropriate classroom conduct with your children. RE is not school, but basic rules of conduct and consideration apply. Our teachers and the RE Committee spend much time and energy creating a safe, supportive, nurturing and positive atmosphere in the classroom. We expect all children to behave in a manner that fosters these feelings for themselves and their classmates. In addition to our Group Covenant, each teaching team is encouraged to develop a classroom code of conduct with the children. You can help by acquainting yourself with, and reinforcing the classroom covenant.

Helping Children Honor our Sacred Space

In all spaces of our Fellowship building, we encourage parents to ensure that their children treat their church home with respect. This behavior includes no running, no standing or climbing on chairs/tables, no throwing things, no hitting, and no shouting. If food or drink is spilled, it should be cleaned up. When children are not in their RE classes, parents are responsible for them. If you observe an unattended child behaving in a disrespectful or potentially harmful manner, please either notify the DRE or a member of the RE Committee, or simply speak gently to the child and remind him/her of the rules.

Religious Education for Pre-K through 10th grade

All classes use age-appropriate curricula. Our theme this year is World Religions, with focus on an exploration of the Old and New Testaments (Jewish and Christian Bibles).

Nursery Care: *For infants through 3-year-olds, babysitting is available downstairs in the Nursery. Your little ones are also welcome to stay with you during the service, but we ask that you take them out to the lobby if they become restless or vocal.*

Pre-K and Kindergarten: We Are Many, We Are One

This program encourages children to play and work cooperatively, express feelings about themselves and others, and see their church as a place for making friends. From there, the program begins an exploration of the world around us.

Focus Points:

- Learning about each other
- Learning about our church
- Exploring our relationship to the natural world
- Exploring how we are different / how we are alike
- Exploring what we can learn from one another by looking at the ways different groups of people celebrate holidays

Teaching Team: Kim Cain • Julie Cottage • Robin Garrett • Susan Sluk

1st and 2nd: Special Times

Special Times acquaints children with the Jewish and Christian heritages out of which our Unitarian Universalist faith has grown, and engages them in celebrations of Jewish and Christian holidays and other “special times,” such as Thanksgiving and everyone’s birthday. Weekly stories give children opportunities to develop an understanding of the abiding religious themes.

Along with celebration, his program includes plenty of arts and crafts.

Teaching Team: Chris Brenner • Beth Daniels • Mike Farnum

3rd and 4th: Timeless Themes

This curriculum introduces children to religious literature that is central to our culture and to our heritage as Unitarian Universalists. The human issues that inspired these scriptures are ageless.

These “timeless themes” include:

- the belief in a transcendent power, or God
- the belief that humans are responsible for their actions
- the love of freedom for all people
- the prophetic imperative to speak out against injustice
- the respect for the beliefs of others, and our common humanity
- the love of one’s neighbor
- the forgiveness for wrongdoing

Teaching Team: Deanna Gabe • Joanna Iliff • Rick London

5th and 6th: Bibleodeon

The Hebrew and Christian Bibles (Old and New Testaments) played critical roles in helping shape today’s Unitarian Universalism and the earlier religious movements which spawned it. They are a large part of the “Jewish and Christian Teachings” which contemporary UUism lists among its sources.

While most UUs today do not rely on the Bible as their guidebook, many millions of people around the world base their lives and actions in their understandings of “The Good Book.” One way that Unitarian Universalists can practice the acceptance and tolerance our faith advocates is by understanding where others find motivation and meaning.

Bibleodeon (the name is a take-off on “Nickleodeon) takes students on an action-packed tour of the Old and New Testaments. Each week, with a Bible story as the take-off point, participants will try to solve the Mystery of the Day – using music, art, drama, forensics and news reporting. In the process, students will learn how to navigate the Bible, some of its history, and discuss what they think/believe is true.

Teaching Team: Clarke Arnold • Holly Heidelbaugh • Dianne Herrin • Nancy Schilling

7th and 8th: Neighboring Faiths

Neighboring Faiths “reflects and affirms the racial, cultural, and religious pluralism of society and the world.” The program invites students to explore the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in their community—both in the classroom and by arranging visits at other houses of worship.

The goals of the course are for students to participate in the faith traditions of others, to reflect on what is unique and what is universal in religious experience, to explore their own values as they relate to other faiths, to become more aware of the many connections between UUism and other faiths, to strengthen commitment to UU faith and community, to increase their understanding and appreciation of religious diversity, and to build relationships with peers, adult leaders, and their congregation and community.

Teaching Team: Chris Conroy • Juan Leon • Dirk Troltenier • Cathy Vogt

9th and 10th: Coming of Age

The purpose of this program is to encourage our young people to explore their beliefs about God, our UU religion, the Bible, life and death, and enable them to articulate their beliefs. The program culminates with a presentation of personal credos to the Fellowship community during a service. The program includes one-on-one work with Mentors, selected from the adult members of the congregation. Both Mentors and “Mentees” alike learn much from each other in the process.

We will be using a new curriculum from the UUA’s “Tapestry of Faith” series. “The goal is to help youth better appreciate Unitarian Universalism, their own beliefs and values, and how these intersect. It will enable them to grasp what it means to belong to a congregation. And it will help them recognize that as they grow and change, there is still a place for them in their faith home.”

Facilitators: Amy Spare • Dylan Williams

Mentors: Brett Goldman • Paul Sapko • Ellen Schipul

As Unitarian Universalists, we teach that . . .

1. Each and every person is unique and to be respected
2. All people should be treated equally
3. Our churches are places where everyone is accepted and where we learn together
4. Every person is free to search for truth and meaning
5. All people have the right to think for themselves and vote on issues that concern them
6. We must work for a world in which there is peace, fairness and freedom
7. We should respect and care for all parts of our planet Earth

(This is a children's version of the 7 Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association)

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For more information, visit www.ufwc.org