

Infants (0-2 yrs.)

Infants are welcome to stay with their parents during our services. We have a space designated for families with infants in the back, right-hand side of the sanctuary closest to the choir room door. In the event that your young ones become fidgety and unable to make it through the service you are welcome to retreat with them out into our social hall. The social hall is wired with speakers so you will still get to hear the service. Changing tables are in both restrooms.



The Great End in Religious Instruction

“The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs; not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect or peculiar notions, but to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision; not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought; not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment.

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life.

-William Ellery Channing

7 Principles

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

7 Principles for Children

We believe,

1. Each person is important
2. Be kind in all you do
3. We're free to learn together
4. In search for what is true
5. All people need a voice
6. In a fair and peaceful world
7. We care for the earth and all of its creatures.

Unitarian Universalist Church Surprise

Children & Youth Religious Education Programs



2018-2019

Phone: (623) 875-2550

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Our Program

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that values the individual spiritual journey, and focuses on making the world a better place through deed and service. Parents seeking a religious education program are often looking for a community of shared values in which to raise their children. These values are the most important things we teach, but we also give children building blocks with which to form their own beliefs. In addition to RE classes, the children have opportunities to interact with the congregation as well as take part in family events, service projects and holiday celebrations throughout the year.

2018-2019 Curriculum

This coming September the children and youth of our congregation will be examining our shared Unitarian Universalist faith with several "Tapestry of Faith" programs. All classes will be examining similar questions such as: What does it mean to be UU?; What are the 7 Principles and how does one live them out in the "real" world?; How can Unitarian Universalists worship together and support each other when each person's spiritual journey and background may be different?; What are shared UU values?

Upon completion of the Tapestry of Faith programs, all students K & up will participate in a disability awareness program designed to encourage empathy and acceptance.

Preschool

Chalice Children

"Chalice Children delves deep into our UU faith. It strives to not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. Early childhood (btw. ages 2 and 5) is filled with curiosity and wonder. In a group setting, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community."

Grades K-4th

Love Will Guide Us

Asking questions is a valued UU trait. With a strong emphasis on love children will examine important questions through a UU lens: Where did we come from?; What is our responsibility to the Earth and other living creatures?; How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?; What happens when you die?

Grades 5th - 8th

Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Every Day

"Signs of Our Faith" guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day and introduces the idea of developing an internal code of ethics. It presents fourteen traits/values that most Unitarian Universalists hold dear, including: the quest for knowledge; reverence for life; supporting one another on our faith journeys; and public witness.

High School

A Place of Wholeness

"A Place of Wholeness" is an opportunity for youth to better understand themselves in the context of Unitarian Universalism. By understanding what's going on "inside" of us we can better live our faith on the "outside". It is this sense of interdependence that the program reinforces; how to become part of the living tradition.

K & Up

Disability Awareness

The seven principles of our UU faith tell us to go out into the world and treat people with love, kindness, tolerance and respect. But not everyone is built or hardwired the same. How do we accept and treat individuals whom we don't understand with kindness? How do we become more comfortable including people with disabilities in our lives? This disability awareness program is designed to educate students about different disabilities, both visible and invisible. Hands-on activities will help students learn what it means to live with a disability and encourage empathy and acceptance.