

2011-2012 Religious Education Program For Children and Youth

Sunday Classes and Child Care, 11:00 a.m.
September 18, 2011 through May 20, 2012



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Greetings and Welcome!

to the 2011-12 religious education program for children and youth (CYRE) at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka. Here's what is in the works for this church year:

- * a second year of using the new Unitarian Universalist Association's freely accessible on-line Tapestry of Faith curricula and of monthly multigenerational worship services;
- * an *Our Whole Lives* sexuality education class for 8th/9th graders on Sunday mornings;
- * a new January social justice "winterim": Immigration as a Moral Issue;
- * Wednesday night senior high youth gatherings;
- * fellowship activities for middle school age youth;
- * more "faith in action" activities; and
- * ongoing traditions such as Chalice Keeper training (to light the worship chalice), Mystery Friends ("whodunit" penpal project), fall rite of passage celebration and the Bridging Program (for graduating seniors).

The CYRE leadership team will be especially focused on expansion of youth programming, increased resource accessibility for children, youth and families, and the exciting potential for moving to religious education for all ages between worship services in fall of 2012.

We are glad you are here to join with us on the lifelong journey of Unitarian Universalist faith development, that you may "nuture your spirit and help heal our world."

Andrea Heier and The CYRE Team



*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....*

William Ellery Channing

WELCOME, VISITORS!

Please sign in visiting children and youth with the *CYRE* Greeter on the lower level prior to the 11 am worship service to get a nametag and learn more about the classes. After a few visits, families will register for the program, which entails:

- completing a detailed registration form
- helping with classes and activities, and
- contributing to the church personally and financially, as able.

11:00 AM CHILDCARE FOR NURSERY/TODDLERS (ROOM #6)



These children receive care and comfort during the worship service. As they grow and develop, the youngsters learn some early group skills and a few simple UU rituals. Please pick your children up as soon as the worship service is over at 12:00 p.m.

CLASSES FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH 12TH GRADE

Young people take part in the first portion of the 11 am worship service which is followed by class time. Preschool-3rd graders should be picked up from classes by their parents/guardians at 12:15 when all the classes are dismissed, unless other arrangements are made with classroom teachers.



LIFELONG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Our multigenerational community shares the privilege, responsibility and fulfillment of lifelong UU faith development and stewardship together. We gather throughout the week for opportunities for renewal, gratitude and transformation both personally and as a community. Below are a few of many ways you can join in:

*** Assisting in the *CYRE* program**

Help in a classroom, clean a cabinet, be a Greeter or help with a special event
After 6 months, sign up to teach (one teacher per family)
Attend church regularly and bring a friend.

*** Partaking in church activities**

Usher or prepare refreshments for social hour as a family
Attend congregational activities and socialize with all the different age groups
Be a Mystery Friend (multigenerational pen pal project)
Attend a Board or Ministry meeting

*** Bringing UUism into your home and family life**

Talk about classroom topics or the sermon together and share your insights
Light a chalice at dinner, share bedtime prayers or thoughts
Visit the UUCM and UUA websites
Take part, and involve your children, in social justice activities.

PRESCHOOL*Chalice Children*

Room #1

Based on the premise that children learn best through experience, this program helps nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community through imaginative activities and rituals.

KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE*Wonderful Welcome*

Room #8

Leaders and children alike are challenged to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.

SECOND/THIRD GRADE*Faithful Journeys*

Room #7

Children are equipped with language and experiences to develop and articulate a strong Unitarian Universalist faith identity through historic and contemporary stories of Unitarian Universalist faith in action.

FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE*Windows & Mirrors*

Room #2

The metaphor of windows and mirrors is used to represent the dynamic relationship among our awareness of self, our perceptions of others, and others' perceptions of us.

SIXTH/SEVENTH GRADE*Riddle & Mystery*

Room #5

The purpose of Riddle and Mystery is to assist youth in their own search for understanding. Each session introduces and processes a Big Question: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Does God exist? What happens when I die? Can we ever solve life's mystery? How can I know what to believe? What does Unitarian Universalism mean to me?

EIGHTH/NINTH GRADE*Our Whole Lives (OWL)*

Room #4

Grounded in a wholistic view of sexuality, *OWL* helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the physical, developmental, spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality, in a faith-based environment. A parent/guardian orientation is required for participation, after which registration is closed. Consistent attendance is important to participants in this class which generally runs from 10:15 am -12:15 pm, with a break at 11am to attend worship.

TENTH-TWELFTH GRADE

Room #3

Together with advisors, these youth plan a vital ministry of leadership, learning, social action, worship and fellowship, wherein all youth are affirmed, empowered, and spiritually nourished. A regional social justice conference on homelessness (Nov. 11-13), 1-2 youth-led worship services, Wednesday evening fellowship, and a service-learning trip—possibly to the new justice General Assembly in Phoenix, June 20-24, 2012—are currently proposed. Meeting times are from 10:15 am -12:15 pm, with a break at 11am to attend worship.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association,
covenant to affirm and promote:

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

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- * Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- * Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- * Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- * Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- * Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- * Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, WE WALK THE RAINBOW PATH

(a children's version of the UUA Principles)



This way of thinking and feeling that we Unitarian Universalists share comes from many sources:

- The wonder that connects us all
- People who have been kind and fair
- Important and wise ideas from all religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love others as we love ourselves
- Humanist teachings that guide us to think and keep learning
- Earth-centered teachings that honor the rhythms of nature

Thankful for all of these ideas, we want to learn even more. We come to church where we freely share our thoughts and feelings and promise to trust and help one another.

