

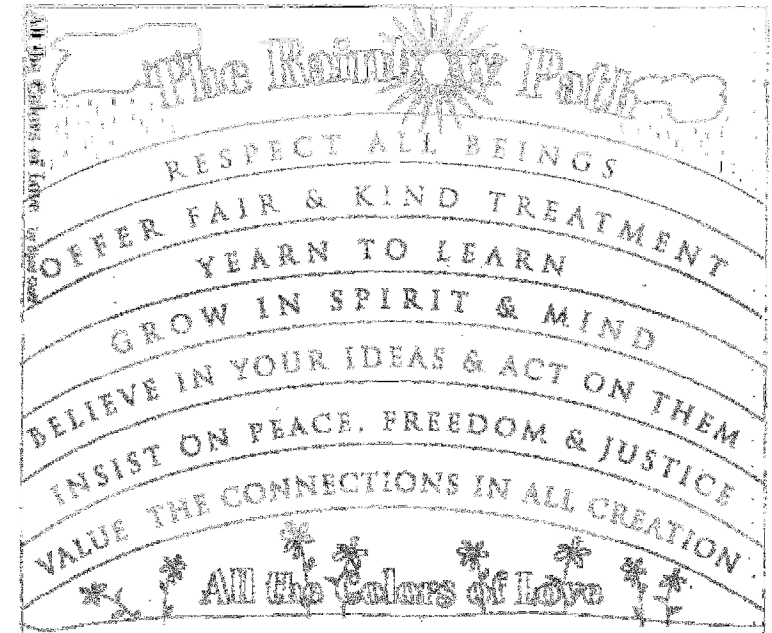
AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, WE WALK THE RAINBOW PATH

(a children's version of the UUA Principles)



*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



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.

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.

Greetings and Welcome!

to the 2001-11 religious education program for children and youth (CYRE) at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka. Thank you for joining with us on the lifelong pursuit of Unitarian Universalist faith development in this multigenerational religious community.

This year features use of the Unitarian Universalist Association's freely accessible on-line Tapestry of Faith curricula, a new Coming of Age program for those in 8th-12th grades and monthly multigenerational worship services. Traditions such as Chalice Keeper training (to light the worship chalice), Mystery Friends ("whodunit" penpal project), and Bridging Program (for graduating seniors) will continue as the popular activities they have been. Additionally this fall UUCM will be hosting the district-wide Youth Justice Conference.

It will be an exciting year! We are glad you are here and thank you in advance for taking part.

Andrea Heier, DRE, and
The CYRE Team



The Religious Education Program for Children and Youth is one facet of the Lifespan Religious Education Ministry whose mission is:

"to be a catalyst and support for spiritual growth, transformation and progressive change within our congregation and the wider community."

UUCM CYRE Vision Statement:

The UUCM children and youth religious education team envisions a program that:

- * Is thriving, stimulating program and integrated into church life
- * Provides a loving community for children and youth in which they can feel a sense of connection and belonging
- * Helps children and youth become aware of the needs of the larger community and respond through social action
- * Supports families in developing meaningful family traditions and in cultivating a grounded spirituality
- * Explores our rich Unitarian Universalist heritage/history and provides our children and youth with firm foundations in our UU Principles and Sources

REGISTRATION

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 program classes and activities, and
- contributing to the church 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

All of these young people take part in the first portion of the 11 am worship service after which they go to, or return to, class. The 8th-12th graders (Coming of Age) begin class earlier than the others, at 10:15, however all classes are dismissed at 12:15 p.m. For safety and security, the Preschool-3rd graders should be picked up from classes by their parents/guardians at that time.



LIFELONG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

The CYRE program partners with families and the broader congregation to educate and invite our children and youth into lifelong Unitarian Universalist stewardship. Please do your part by...

* 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

* 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 beliefs
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.

Consult the DRE or any member of the CYRE Team for more ideas and information.

11:00 a.m. Classes

PRESCHOOL (3-5 YEAR OLDS) *Rainbow Seekers* Room #1

Through a variety of stories and fun activities, children learn why church is a special place to come and make friends.

KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE *Creating Home, Our Whole Lives* Room #2

Creating Home helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. *Our Whole Lives* is an age-appropriate sexuality education program with weekly home communications and a required parent/guardian orientation on March 6th, 2011, after which registration is closed.

SECOND/THIRD GRADE *Moral Tales* Room #7

Provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values.

FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE *Toolbox of Faith* Room #5

Invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith.

SIXTH/SEVENTH GRADE *Amazing Grace* Room #4

This program guides sixth graders through ways to determine right from wrong with a Unitarian Universalist perspective, and act on their new understandings.

EIGHTH-TWELFTH GRADES *Coming of Age* Room #3

This special curriculum is designed to prepare youth for fuller participation in a Unitarian Universalist congregation and to acknowledge their efforts and intention to religiously "come of age" as a UU. The program goals are to develop a UU identity and personal theology, to strengthen intergenerational ties, and to mark their accomplishments with a formal Coming of Age dinner and rite of passage celebration. Class time is 10:15 am -12:15 pm, with a break at 11am to attend worship.



Optional Class for 5th/6th Graders

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Room #4

This program promotes age-appropriate values of self worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity in a safe, open faith-based environment. A parent/guardian orientation is required for participation, after which registration is closed. Following a parent meeting and required orientation for both parent/guardian and child, this class will be held from 10-11 am through the first eight weeks of the church year, concluding on Nov. 14th, 2010.