

Religious Education Overview

Welcome to Religious Education at the ALUUC. Our program provides Sunday morning religious education classes for children from preschool through high school, as well as a staffed nursery for children aged two years and younger.

We support and nurture the spiritual growth of our youth and our volunteer teachers through worship, fellowship, service to others and structured classroom learning experiences. To ensure that children are exposed to both Unitarian Universalism and other religious paths, our curriculum is divided into two themes that rotate biannually. The first year we focus on Unitarian Universalism and the next year we focus on World Religions. This year we will be focusing on World Religions in our religious education curriculum.

If you are available to volunteer to assist the Religious Education Program by serving on the organizing committee, donating supplies, teaching, or facilitating a children's worship service, please contact Marla Johnson, CRE. Any questions or concerns about our program can be directed to:

Coordinator of Religious Education

Marla Johnson CRE@aluuc.org

RE Committee Chair

Dianne Roberts RE@aluuc.org

ALUUC Minister

Rev. Martin Woulfe Minister@aluuc.org

World Religions Curriculum 2011-2012

Pre-School & Kindergarten

Maria Britton, Jenni Dahl & Lara Quivey, Teachers

Picture Book World Religions

- ✿ An introduction to world religions that allows the children to explore the differences and similarities to their lives.

First & Second Grade

Kim Nair & Neha Patel-Dunkirk, Teachers

Stories About God

- ✿ To expose the children to a wide variety of stories about God based on insight: from all of the world religions; from feminist experience; from science; and from the ordinary and extraordinary experiences of life
- ✿ To foster the understanding that God can take many forms and is called by many names

Third Grade

Pat Goller, Sandra Creasey, Laura Marlow, Kathy & David Whitworth, Teachers

Timeless Themes: Stories from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles

- ✿ To become familiar with some of the best known stories in biblical literature
- ✿ To develop UU values by discussing biblical issues that support or challenge them

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Teresa Liberati & Diana DeWeese, Teachers

A Kingdom of Equals: Jesus' Radical Path to Love and Justice

- ✿ A UU perspective of Jesus of Nazareth, not Jesus the Christ as developed after his death by Christian theology.

Seventh & Eighth Grade

Dianne Roberts, Rodd Whelpley & Evan Withers Teachers

Building Bridges

- ✿ Youth will "build a bridge" to other people of faith by visiting houses of worship.
- ✿ These religious explorations will help youth grow in their Unitarian Universalist faith and build authentic relationships in our increasingly diverse world.

Religious Education Services

Classes are held on Sundays starting at 10:45 am, directly after the Children's Focus in the service, and lasting until 11:45 am. Parents should feel free to enjoy refreshments and fellowship immediately following service and pick up their children from the RE classrooms at 11:45am. There are many benefits for children who attend classes consistently. By attending class each week, they develop a bond with their friends and teachers and benefit from continuity in the weekly curriculum.

Children's Worship Services are held several times per church year. Instead of regular classes, all children go to the Religious Education Commons for a Worship Service led by the Coordinator of Religious Education and parent volunteer(s). The Children's Worship Services will focus on the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

Intergenerational Services are held several times per church year. During these services the children and youth remain in the regular Sunday morning service with the adults. This experience allows them to participate in worship as a part of the larger church community.

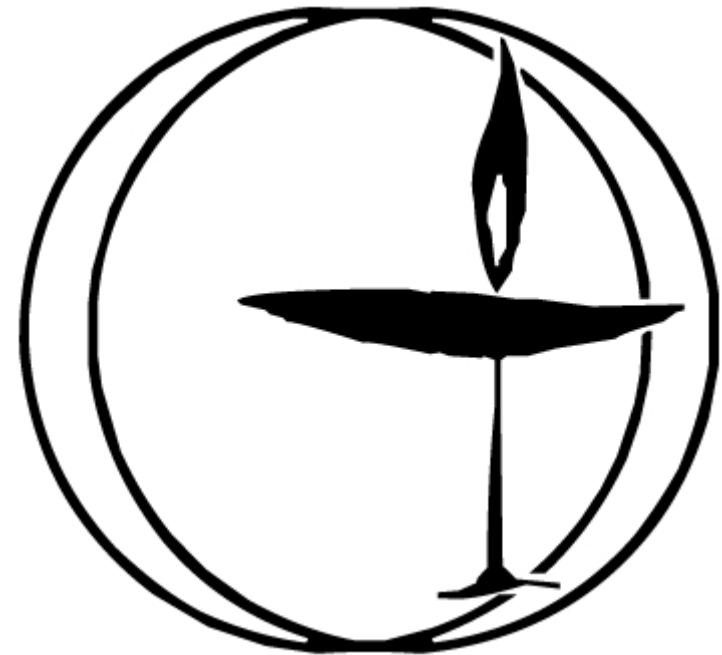
Nursery Care is available on all Sundays for children two years and younger. For Children's Worship and Intergenerational Services, nursery care is extended to children ages three and younger. Our nursery attendants are Amanda Metcalf (lead), Laura Brauer, Aubrey Collin & Amy Kluge.

Kids Club provides activities for elementary school age children outside of the regular Sunday morning religious education classes. Kids Club typically meets the first Friday of each month. Kids Club activities are organized by Marla Johnson.

Senior Youth Group meets most Sunday afternoons during the church year from 12 to 1:30 pm at ALUUC, along with occasional meetings on Friday evenings. Young people in the group participate in choosing the direction of the curriculum each year. They also plan and participate in a variety of other events and trips. Kelly Anderson, Mike Haynes and Tara Crowley are the Senior Youth Advisors.

Summer Programming lasts from June until September. During the summer months, members of the congregation volunteer to share their time and talent with our children as a whole group on Sunday mornings. These sessions take place at the same time as traditional R.E. classes and include spiritually enriching games, music, and crafts. Parents and children alike enjoy getting to know various members of our church community and the unique information they have to share!

Religious Education



**Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Springfield, Illinois**

2011 – 2012