

## 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 or Dianne Roberts-Hill, Religious Education Committee Chairperson.

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-Hill              RE@aluuc.org

### **ALUUC Minister**

Rev. Martin Woulfe                Minister@aluuc.org

## World Religions Curriculum 2009-2010

### **Pre-School & Kindergarten**

#### **Maria Britton & 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**

#### **Jenni Dahl & Dianne Roberts-Hill, 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 & Fourth Grade**

#### **Theresa Kanoza, Todd Austin, Eugena Austin & Sandra Creasey, 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, Seventh & Eighth Grade**

#### **Amanda Mueller, Jeremy Izzard & Evan Withers Teachers**

##### God Images

- ✿ To explore the questions and issues that lead to the creation of God images
- ✿ To identify God images from Judaism and Christianity, from other world religions, and from modern science

### **Ninth through Twelfth Grade - Senior Youth** **Buffy Lael, Meg Schnake & Scott Wade, Advisors**

##### Putting It All Together

Experiences focus on taking an active role in:

- ✿ Worship
- ✿ Learning
- ✿ Leadership
- ✿ Social action
- ✿ Community Building
- ✿ Adult/Youth relationships

## 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).

**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.

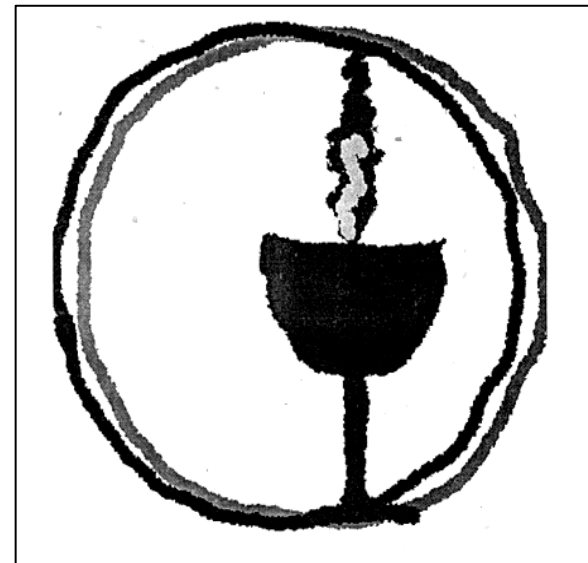
**Nursery Care** is available on all Sundays for children two years and younger. For Children's Worship and Intergenerational Services, nursery care is extended to children ages three and younger. Our nursery attendants are Adrienne Powers, Amanda Clark and Brenda Wade.

**Kids Club** provides activities for elementary school age children outside of the regular Sunday morning religious education classes. Kids Club typically meets in the evening on 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 3 to 5 pm at ALUUC. 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. Buffy Lael, Meg Schnake and Scott Wade 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

2009 – 2010