

Getting Started

Every year, we require that a registration form and photo permission form be complete for all students who are participating in the RE program. These can be found with the DRE, with RE teachers, or with other RE staff. Please complete and return to the ALUUC office or the DRE.

Classes are held on Sunday mornings beginning directly after the Children's Focus in the Order of Service, and last until the end of service. Parents should pick up their children from the RE classrooms after service.

If you are available to volunteer to assist the Religious Education Program by serving on the organizing committee, donating supplies, teaching, or assisting in other ways, please contact our RE Committee Chair, Deborah Cavanaugh Grant, at RE@aluuc.org.



3-5 teacher Diana DeWeese surveys her preparations for a lesson about Judaism.

Not Quite Class Ready?

We invite you to join us in the Nursery, where our very fine staff provides care on all Sundays for children two years and younger (or those for whom the Nursery is the appropriate placement). Our nursery attendants are **Amanda Metcalf (lead)**, **Robyn Nation**, **Sandra Creasey**, **Sabrina Vining**, and **Angela Solon (sub)**.

Summer Events

Summer Programming lasts from June until mid August. During the summer months a program is presented by the Religious Education staff.

Eco Camp is a free week-long day camp held each summer in late July for children ages 5-12, with teens acting as junior counselors.



ALUUC

745 Woodside Road,
Springfield, IL 62711

Questions or comments to
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ALUUC

Religious Education

2019-2020 Programming



Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road,
Springfield, IL 62711

2019-2020 RE PROGRAMMING



Overview of RE

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

Enrollment is generally based on grade in school, but we are flexible to children's specific needs. Children who are not yet ready to be in a classroom are welcome to remain in the nursery until they are classroom ready.

Likewise, students whose maturity and capacity indicate they are ready to move up to the next class will be placed appropriately. We believe children feel most comfortable when they are in a class setting that meets their needs and readiness.



Class Descriptions

This year, students in **Pre-K through 3rd** will be part of our inaugural Spirit Play classroom, a Montessori based experience in which students are introduced to the fundamentals of the Seven Principles and Six Sources underpinning Unitarian Universalism. Within that framework, students will explore their own answers to the existential questions, as: Where did we come from? What are we doing here? What is our purpose? How do we choose to live our lives? What are our gifts? How do we use them? What happens when we die? Why do we die? Why are we lonely and sad sometimes? **Lead Teacher Christina Raison** and her team of **Melissa Bernhardt, Jenni Dahl, David Marshall, and Feli Wonneberger** will facilitate.



Our **3-5 classroom** will begin with several weeks of activities focused on the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, then move into specific explorations of other faiths and traditions around the world. Led by teachers **Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant** and **Diana DeWeese**, the class features engaging stories, provocative discussion, and fabulous crafts and activities.

Students in **grades 6-9** (though 9th graders can opt up to Senior Youth) will also be exploring World Religions, but they will be using lenses such as “Holidays and Holy Days”, “Sacred Spaces”, and “Creation Stories” to focus their learning. Guided by **Sydney McCabe** and **Dan Vining**, this class encourages students to discover where UU fits in the world of faith traditions.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth will also enjoy an inaugural program, as we offer a Coming of Age program for **grades 10-12**, though 9th graders can opt up and are invited to all large group activities. Each teen will meet with an adult mentor on the first Sunday of each month to delve deeply into UU identity. Second Sundays will be large group planning meetings for activities such as CONs, social outings, and community service activities. Third Sundays will be in Sunday Service, and Fourth Sundays will be one of the activities the youth previously planned. On those months with five Sundays, youth will engage in creative arts projects of their choosing. We look forward to expanding our Senior Youth group outside ALUCC, as we have a Friendsgiving “minicon” this year with our sister congregations as well as the Spring Con in April 2020.