

## Welcome!

The mission of our RE program for youth is to provide a structured, caring environment that nurtures each child and provides opportunities for religious discovery and personal growth. Our emphasis is on living a life of freedom controlled by responsible attitudes, rather than living by doctrines and rules.

The six major goals of our program are:



To affirm the dignity and worth of every human being;



To teach our young people about our Unitarian Universalist heritage and principles;



To acquaint our young people with the values, beliefs and history of other religions;



To foster a feeling of community among our youth for our church and for the world at large;



To respect the earth and the interdependence of its living systems;



To study, reflect on, and celebrate life.

### How our program works:

Our Youth Programs Committee and Director of Religious Education meet once a month to plan and implement our program. The Director works 20 hours per week. Together, the Director and YP Committee set goals for religious growth and learning. They plan the curricula, recruit and support the teachers, plan special events and service projects. A teacher training workshop or grade level meetings are held each year to assist our volunteers with the job of teaching our children.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF  
**LOVE**

### Grades 5-8

This group of older youth will use two curricula this year from the Tapestry of Faith program (see [uua.org](http://uua.org)). Beginning in the Fall they will use *Amazing Grace* which explores ways to determine right from wrong with a Unitarian Universalist perspective and how to act on their new understandings.

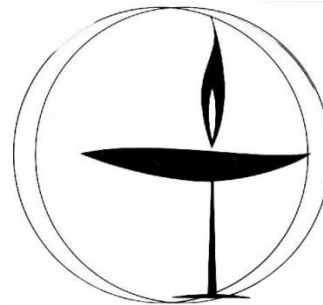
Later in the year, using *Riddle and Mystery*, our youth will be guided through further exploration of big questions, about religion, God, beginnings, death, bad things, fairness, truth, the future and what to believe.

### Senior High (Grades 9-12)

Our Sr. High youth will be offered several choices this year: to be a teacher aide in younger classrooms, to attend the adult service, to participate in service projects to watch films for discussion, or a combination of the above.

Opportunities will be available for our older youth to attend district youth conferences.

To talk with our Religious Education Director, please contact Jan Price, at (248)548-2376 or [janprice53@gmail.com](mailto:janprice53@gmail.com)



## Religious Education Program For Children and Youth 2011-2012

**Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church**  
23925 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, Michigan 48075  
248-354-4488  
[www.northwestuu.org](http://www.northwestuu.org)

### Youth Programs Committee:

Jan Price, *Director of Religious Education*  
Beata Lamparski, *Youth Programs Governor*  
Julie Stitt, *Youth Programs Vice-Governor*  
David Bowden • Peggy Ewick  
Barbara Stevenson • Linda Storey  
Amy Vansen

Rev. Kimi Riegel, *Minister*

## What we offer:

We provide childcare for babies, toddlers and pre-school age children from 9:50 to 11:30 am. Kindergarten age through High School attend the first 20 minutes of the gathering service beginning at 10:00 am. The Sunday school program begins at approximately 10:25 am. This gives parents a wonderful opportunity to teach their children appropriate behavior for worship service. Children should be encouraged to learn to respect the quiet times of the service as well as participate during the appropriate times. Sunday classes end at 11:30 – please be prompt in picking up your child.

*We are welcoming to every child. Please let us know about any special needs your child may have so that we can provide the best experience.*

## Why your participation is important:

Regular attendance is important for your child to fully reap the benefits of our faith, and build long-lasting relationships. As a parent, you can participate either as a teacher or volunteer for various events. If your children see you involved, their commitment will strengthen. It is also a good idea to talk to your children about what they have learned and provide your own feedback.

Our faith is an active faith – faith in action. Our program relies very heavily on the love, dedication and hard work of volunteers. We encourage you to participate in our program because for children, actions speak louder than words. Whether you teach, or help out with a special event, or serve on the Youth Programs Committee you are showing your children how important our program is to you.

## Safety and disciplinary policies:

We are always concerned about the safety and well-being of all of the children in our program. Therefore, if a child's behavior becomes too disruptive and interferes with the lesson, or a child acts in such a way as to possibly harm another child, we will handle it the following way: First, if a child's well-being is threatened, the teacher will do whatever is necessary to protect that child. Teachers are encouraged to speak to a child who is being disruptive and then seek out the Director, as needed, who will assist with the situation and, if necessary, contact the parent.

While extreme situations rarely occur, this policy enables the class to run smoothly and ensures the safety of all children. We have two teachers assigned to every room.

## Babies and toddlers:

We provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere. Presently our babies and toddlers share space in our large pre-school room. Caregivers will begin coverage at 9:50 a.m. to enable parents to get their children settled. Please provide your own diapers, bottles, etc. as needed. A favorite toy or blanket may help your child feel more comfortable. A snack will be served. Toddlers are welcome to participate in the pre-school programming.

## Curricula:

2011-12: Exploring our Unitarian Universalist Faith

2012-13: K-6: Judeo-Christian Heritage and UUism Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups: Expressions of our Faith

2013-14: Understanding Our Diverse World (This will include appreciating diversity and cultural traditions around the world for younger children and Neighboring Faiths for our older youth.)

Every few years we offer two special programs: *Our Whole Lives*, a comprehensive sexuality education program for grades 4-6 and 7-9, and a *Coming of Age* class for 8th graders in which they learn more intensively about our faith and do service projects with the help of a mentor.

The following curricula will be used September 2011 through June 2012. A separate summer program will be offered.

## Pre-School Group (Ages 3-5)

These children will use stories and activities from the UUA curriculum *Celebrating Me and My World*. It begins by celebrating the wondrous qualities of the children themselves and expands outward to the things and people around them. It is designed to help our children grow in their sense of trust and caring, to develop their self-identity and their sense of connectedness with all of life.

## Grades K-2

The children will use the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum *Creating Home*. This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. Together the group will explore the functions of a home for us and for other animals and the roles each of us play in a family. The concept of "faith home" is introduced. A labyrinth exercise is part of each session.

Later in the year, this group will learn with the guidance of *Love Surrounds Us*, another Tapestry of Faith program. They will learn about Unitarian Universalist principles. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.

## Grades 3-4

This group will begin during the Fall with a curriculum called *Moral Tales* from the UUA Tapestry of Faith programs. The children are given spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. The aim of *Moral Tales* is to help raise children who have been provided with tools that will help them discern what is right and true, to hear and follow the call of Love, and to turn their moral beliefs and ethical concerns into concrete action.

Later in the year through another Tapestry of Faith program, *Toolbox of Faith*, the children will reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith such as integrity, courage and love as tools they can use in their own lives and in building their own faith.

