

What is Unitarian Universalism?

Unitarian Universalism is a caring, open-minded religion that encourages you to seek your own spiritual path. Our Faith draws on many religious traditions, welcoming people with different beliefs. We are united by shared values, not by creed or dogma. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities and the world a better place. Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are committed not only to spiritual growth and transformation but also to involvement in the world.

Parties, Concerts, and Gatherings

We have multi- generational outdoor gatherings in which we enjoy hiking, picnicking, and playing. Last year we visited Obstbaum Apple Orchard, Carpenter Lake, Kensington, and Valade Parks. During the year, we often have a trunk or treat, a holiday party, and a Seder.

RE Service Projects

Our children and youth are involved in several service projects every year. We volunteer with local organizations. We send school supplies to the local school, we have a youth lead bake sale to raise money for the Black Mama's Day Bailout. We collect supplies for the Ruth Ellis center and pack Thanksgiving baskets for Southfield Family Services.

Safety and Peace Keeping Policies

We are always concerned about the safety and well-being of all children in our program. We have a Child Protection Policy that our staff and volunteers adhere to. We have two teachers assigned to every room. The DRE and staff will assist the volunteers in peacemaking efforts. We mediate teasing, name calling, or bullying. Sometimes we need to call the parents out of the service. To see our Child Protection Policy, go to northwestuu.org.



RE Program Mission

The mission of the RE program for youth is to build strong relationships among children, teachers and congregants. To cultivate spiritual growth through our 7 values in article 2. Grow a community that welcomes and nurtures all children of different abilities, gender identities, colors and faith backgrounds.

Northwest Unitarian Universalist
Congregation

Answers Questioned



Religious Education Program for Children and Youth

2023-2024

**Northwest Unitarian Universalist
Church**

23925 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, Michigan 48075
248-354-4488

www.northwestuu.org

Director of Religious Education – Eva
Leventer

Childcare Staff – Jill Border

Chair of Youth Programs Committee – Brian
Parthum

Youth Program Committee Members
Jason Lane, Barbara Stevenson, Jim Moir,
Gordon Krauthamer

Sunday Morning Program

Care for Babies and Toddlers: We provide a safe and nurturing environment for babies and toddlers. We have a hired staff person who works with volunteers to provide the best care for your child(ren). Caregivers are available from 10:15- 12pm to accommodate coffee hour. Please provide your own diapers, bottles etc. Children will enjoy snacks, stories, sensory activities and free play. They will go outdoors as weather permits. Please provide outdoor gear.

Pre-k, through 1st Grade: Each Sunday we have interactive worship elements for our Pre-k- 1st grade children. We do circle time, or all children's chapel or join the worship service and hear a message for all ages. There will be fun, and engaging sensory activities, crafts and a lot of indoor and outdoor play. The children will enjoy dancing, singing, meditations, stories on important UU values, and sharing time. We will be using some Soul Matters activities and stories.

Elementary Mixed Aged: This year we are using the Soul Matters curriculum. It provides monthly themes that center around values of Unitarian Universalism and Article 2. Each Sunday there will be an interactive worship element. Some weeks it will be an all children's chapel. Twice a month children will join the worship service and hear a message for all ages. Each lesson will include a chalice lighting, an introduction, a story and exploration of the topic through acting, cooking, activities, and games.

Upper Elementary & Middle School: The upper elementary and middle schoolers will have a chance to meet together every week. They will engage in a chalice lighting, joys and sorrows, video, and discussion. There will be some fun activities such as gaming, coding, crafts, cooking and role play. We are using two curriculums: Soul Matters and Kids on Bikes role play curriculum.

Highschool Youth: High schoolers can volunteer with one of the RE groups, help with coffee hour prep, hang out in the atrium or attend the service.

Coming of Age

Grades 8-9- January 2025

Unitarian Universalists youth have a special "Coming of Age" program and ceremony. Northwest UU youth meet using a curriculum to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and articulate their own beliefs. They are matched with a mentor at this time. The Coming of Age ceremony usually features the youth reading their statements of personal belief.

Teen Programming

Our teens are important to us! Our teens are encouraged to volunteer and lead programs in the classrooms. They help with Peace Camp as part of staff. They can build leadership skills and share passions with children. We organize movie, art, cooking and game nights for teens. We are joining with other UU churches to provide events together.



Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Grades 4th-6th - Winter 2024

Grades 7th-9th - Fall 2024

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior. Our Whole Lives provides accurate-, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

Peace Camp

Summer 2024

Monday July 15th-Thursday July 18th

We gather every summer for a four full day peace camp in collaboration with other UU churches. In the past, we have explored themes such as earth and water justice. We have learned about different people's identities. We have explored these themes through folk dance, cooking, painting and activism. This camp has integrated community building games, and drumming.