



Children and Youth Religious Education Program

2008-2009

Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT 06517

Mr. Barb Greve, Interim Director of Religious Education
Email: usnh.dre@gmail.com
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Infant/Toddler Childcare: 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Preschool – 5th Grade: 9:15 a.m.
Preschool – 8th Grade: 11:15 a.m.
YRUU: day & time to be determined

Dear Unitarian Society of New Haven Families, Friends & Visitors,

Welcome to the Unitarian Society of New Haven and our Children and Youth Religious Education program! Whether you are new to our Unitarian Universalist community, have been here for generations, or are visiting for the first time; I hope you and your family will find a religious home here.

At the core, we believe that truly held faith develops with dynamic exploration of ideas by asking questions, talking with others, and undertaking a free and responsible search for truth and meaning both within and outside oneself. Simply accepting belief without examination can render the belief meaningless.

We offer Sunday morning classes for children in preschool through high school focused on age-appropriate exploration and expression of oneself, the world, and Unitarian Universalism. Nursery care for babies and toddlers is also provided on Sunday mornings.

Our Children and Youth Religious Education program offers a safe, inspiring and welcoming setting where children and youth can explore, grow, and learn through study, play, sharing, and worship. Participants in the program engage with various theologies and philosophies as well as Unitarian Universalist values and heritage through a variety of age-specific and intergenerational curricula and events. Teachers and Learners work together investigating different concepts of the worldly and the divine, beginning the lifelong process of developing and living their active theologies within the framework of Unitarian Universalist values.

We also offer a variety of age-specific and intergenerational social events, social action projects, and worship opportunities for both our congregation and the public.

Please feel free to contact me at usnh.dre@gmail.com or by calling 203.288.1807 x 203 to discuss any aspect of general religious education or our program in particular.

With faith,



Mr. Barb Greve

Interim Director of Religious Education

Program Objectives

To provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment.

To enable each person to develop and strengthen a positive sense of self and an awareness of their connection to family, parish, and community.

To enable each person to develop a sense of appreciation of, respect for, wonder in, awe of, and worship in the universe.

To enable each person to articulate and integrate their unique and shared beliefs and values.

To enable each person to develop the ability, confidence and understanding to act responsibly in the world community.

To enable each person to learn our Unitarian Universalist religious heritage, as expressed through our Unitarian Universalist principles.

Registration

All children and youth are required to have completed a yearly registration form, which includes emergency contact information, health information, and special accommodation information.

Registration forms are available in the Religious Education Office (Room 201) or can be downloaded from the church's website at <http://www.usnh.org/>.

Fees

Our religious education program requires financial support. It is offered without charge to pledging members and pledging friends. If you are not a pledging household, tuition fees are \$150 for the first child and \$100 for each additional child per year. A grace period of approximately 3 months is available before payment is due for new attendees.

No one is turned away for financial reasons. If you are unable to pay the tuition fee, please contact Mr. Barb Greve, Interim Director of Religious Education via phone: 203.288.1807 x 203 or via email: usnh.dre@gmail.com.

Adult Involvement

Our teachers provide exceptional guidance to the children and youth of the Unitarian Society of New Haven. They are all members of the congregation who volunteer their time and energy to the Children and Youth Religious Education program. Each class is led by at least two teachers. Some classes may also include student helpers and parent assistants.

Safety Policy

To provide a safe and secure environment for the children and youth who participate in Unitarian Society of New Haven sponsored programs, volunteers involved in supervising minors must complete a Volunteer application form and sign a Code of Ethics form. These forms are available in the Religious Education office (Room 201).

Age and Grade Policy

Children who attend the religious education programs will generally be placed in classes according to their current grade level in school. Exceptions, at any grade level, will need the approval of the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee.

Children and Youth Religious Education Program

Schedule of Classes

The Religious Education program is offered during both services.
Program times are:

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Preschool through 4th/5th Grade
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Preschool through 8th Grade
Day & Time TBD	High School

Children's Programs

Infants & Toddlers

Nursery for infants and toddlers is available from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Sunday. The nursery is staffed by paid providers and is a warm and welcoming place.

Preschool (3 & 4 year olds)

Rainbow Seekers gives our children the chance to work together to practice the loving actions of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

Kindergarten & 1st grade

Chalice Children teaches students about our religion and their congregation through rituals, rhymes, chants, stories, and activities. The experiences and messages of the curriculum are intended to affirm young children in their spiritual growth, creativity, and connection to our congregation.

2nd & 3rd grade

UU Superheroes engages in songs, games, and dramatizations in order to teach students that great things can be accomplished by imperfect people. UU Super Heroes includes the stories of real Unitarian, Universalist or Unitarian Universalist “Super Heroes” such as Sophia Fahs, Henry David Thoreau, Pete Seeger, King John Sigismund, P.T. Barnum, Beatrix Potter and even Superman, Christopher Reeves. Many of the stories begin at childhood, telling the tale of people who have humble beginnings and who make mistakes, just as we all do.

We Believe helps children develop positive statements about what Unitarian Universalists believe. Based explicitly on Unitarian Universalism’s seven principles, this curriculum helps students explore what it means to live the Unitarian Universalist faith.

4th & 5th grade

Travel in Time uses the imaginative device of time travel to help young people explore their Unitarian Universalist religious identity. Students learn about the origins of Unitarian Universalism in North America and the lives of individuals, past and present, who exemplify our faith.

6th & 7th grade (11:15 a.m. only)

Compass Points gives students opportunities to discover what they believe about life’s big questions, think independently, assume responsibility, make decisions, explore values and adopt the practice of radical hospitality. Students are exposed to Unitarian Universalist history, polity and theology in hopes that that they will learn and express what Unitarian Universalism stands for.

8th grade (11:15 a.m. only)

Affirmations is a special year-long coming of age course created especially by the Unitarian Society of New Haven. Youth are encouraged to fully engage in their own free and responsible search for truth and meaning as well as develop their personal understandings and connections to Unitarian Universalism.

9th - 12th grade (day & time To Be Determined)

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) is comprised of high school age youth who gather weekly for worship, fun, social action, and deepening relationships. It is an ongoing group that seeks to foster spiritual depth, clarify both individual and universal religious values and create a peaceful community on Earth. A part of the Unitarian Universalist youth movement, this group welcomes all high school students in our faith community.

Children and Youth Religious Education Program 2008 - 2009 Tentative Calendar

Please note that all dates are subject to change, and new events may be added. Please check the Unitarian Society of New Haven newsletter and the announcements in the weekly orders of services for up-to-date information regarding Children & Youth Religious Education events.

Fall Semester (September 2008 - January 2009)

Sunday, September 7th—Intergenerational “Homecoming” worship services.

Sunday, October 19th—Children’s Chapel.

Sunday, November 23rd—One Wild & Precious Life Service.

Sunday, November 30th—Intergenerational worship service at 10:00. No classes, Nursery care will be provided.

Sunday, December 21st—Children’s Chapel.

Sunday, December 28th—Music worship service at 10.00. No classes, Nursery care will be provided.

Sunday, January 18th—Children’s Chapel.

Sunday, January 25th—Last day of Fall Semester classes.

Spring Semester (February 2009 - June 2009)

Sunday, February 15th—Children’s Chapel.

Sunday, March 15th—Children’s Chapel (Bring a Friend Sunday for all ages).

Sunday, April 12th—Easter. Children’s Chapel.

Sunday, May 17th—YRUU provides worship service for congregation at both services, grades 4-8 attend, other Religious Education classes meet as usual.

Sunday, May 24th—Memorial Day weekend. Special activities for all ages.

Sunday, May 31st—Last day of Spring Semester classes.

Sunday, June 7th—Children’s Chapel (Barb’s goodbye to the children/youth).

Sunday, June 14th—Way Cool Sunday School.

Sunday, June 21st—Intergenerational “Flower Communion” worship service at 10:00.

Children and Youth Religious Education Committee

Mission Statement

To provide a meaningful religious education program for children and youth from birth to the 12th Grade based on the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes and which encourages:

- Commitment to our community
- Social ethics in our wider world
- Serious exploration of personal spiritual development

The central themes of our Children & Youth Religious Education program are:

- Unitarian Universalist history and identity
- Our Jewish and Christian heritages
- Self and community
- Personal spiritual journey
- Comparative religions
- Social justice

Our program offerings include:

- Children's classes and events
- Infant and toddler child care
- Affirmations Coming of Age program
- Young Religious Unitarian Universalists youth group
- Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program (optional)
- Class and program-wide social justice projects
- Intergenerational and children's worship and community experiences
- Parental education and support

Children and Youth Religious Education Committee Structure

The Children and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE) is made up for 5 pods, each focusing on a particular area of our work. The chair of the CYRE, co-chairs of each workgroup, and the Director of Religious Education (ex-officio) make up the CYRE Committee. This allows for the CYRE Committee to focus on the mission and vision of religious education while also maintaining our quality program.

CYRE Workgroups

Behavior & Policies keeps our policies up-to-date and serves as a resource in the event of difficult behaviors exhibited in the program.

Curricula Review selects the curricula that will be used in each class.

Intergenerational Activities plans occasional events designed to bring the generations together.

Special Sundays plans and puts on CYRE classes on those occasional Sundays when regular classes are not in session.

Teacher Recruitment & Appreciation recruits teachers to teach in the CYRE program, helps provide adequate training, and makes sure that we are adequately appreciating our teachers.

Health Guidelines

In order to minimize the transmission of communicable illnesses, we ask that if your child has any of the following conditions ze NOT attend RE class:

- ⚙️ Fever > 100 orally
- ⚙️ Runny nose (thick yellow or green discharge)
- ⚙️ Ear ache (until under treatment or identified as not contagious)
- ⚙️ Sore throat (if strep throat, must be under treatment for 24 hours or more)
- ⚙️ “Pink Eye” (must be receiving treatment for 24 hours or more)
- ⚙️ Vomiting or diarrhea
- ⚙️ Head lice (must be “nit free”)
- ⚙️ Cough (must be receiving treatment or improving)
- ⚙️ Draining sore or impetigo
- ⚙️ Chicken Pox (all spots must be completely scabbed over)
- ⚙️ Rash (must be receiving treatment or identified as NOT contagious)

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Religious Education office (Room 201), by telephone at 203.288.1807 x 203, or via email at usnh.dre@gmail.com.

Thank You!



Mr. Barb Greve,
Interim Director of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalist Principles

(Children's Version)

- We believe that each and every person is important.
- We believe that all people should be treated fairly.
- We believe that our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together.
- We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- We believe that everyone should have a vote about the things that concern them.
- We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- We believe in caring for our planet earth.

~ From: "Beginning Unitarian Universalism"