

Goals Of Our Program

- Foster our children's exploration of self and to help them develop a respect for their own self worth.
- Develop an understanding of other people and an appreciation for others' worth and dignity.
- Empower our students to develop their beliefs and encourage them to act on their convictions.
- Emphasize the importance of freedom of religious expression.
- Enhance our children's understanding and appreciation of their relationship with the natural world.
- Create a supportive community of friends with the students in their class, other children in the RE program, and with the adult members of the congregation.
- Form a positive, enjoyable environment that stimulates natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.
- Encourage a sense of helping others

The Rainbow Principles

- RED:** Respect all people
- ORANGE:** Offer fair and kind treatment to all
- YELLOW:** Yearn to learn throughout life
- GREEN:** Grow by exploring ideas and values
- BLUE:** Believe in your ideas and act on them
- INDIGO:** Insist on a fair and peaceful world
- VIOLET:** Value our connection to all life and nature

Foxborough Universalist Church

Unitarian Universalist Association

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Religious Education



Foxborough Universalist Church

Unitarian Universalist Association



Religious Education

Program Description

Overview

Located in the social hall of our historic Universalist church, our Sunday school classes are organized and led by church members. The Unitarian Universalist Association has provided many of the materials utilized to create our curricula. We also supplement our classes with a series of activities, service projects, and inter-generational services for all ages. We strive for a broad understanding of our own and other faiths from around the world and focus on building a respectful, compassionate, spiritual community.

A Typical Sunday

The children participate in the first fifteen minutes of church service. Usually there are announcements, joys and concerns, the lighting of the chalice, and a hymn. At this stage, the children go downstairs to their religious education (RE) classes.

A typical class will consist of a story and discussion about a UU value, a physical or artistic follow-up activity, and a snack.



Class Programs For 2009-2010

Preschool/K-2

We will be using the curriculum **Treasure Hunting**. This curriculum celebrates the wondrous qualities of children and the animals, objects, and people around them. It will provide the children with experiences and opportunities to grow in trust and caring and to develop their self-identity and sense of connectedness with all of life.

Grades 2-4

Timeless Themes: The best-known stories in religious literature are presented to the children in this curriculum, providing a base of knowledge essential to the understanding of their religious heritage. Timeless themes that inspired the scriptures, such as power, responsibility, freedom, love and forgiveness, are explored.

Grades 5-8

The curriculum **Compass Points** will be used to help middle school aged youth explore their beliefs, their UU faith and their relationships with others and the world. "Compass Points" gives participants 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; acquire enough background in Unitarian Universalist history, polity and theology that they can know and express what Unitarian Universalism stands for; and understand that religious liberty is a hard won legacy that continues to need protection. They will have the opportunity to visit other UU congregations later in the year.

Extra-Curricular And Family Activities

In addition to the regular curriculum, special events and trips are planned throughout the year to further enrich the program, enhancing program goals and providing opportunities for bonding and building relationships with fellow students.

Some of the events from the past years include nature hikes, a walk-a-thon fundraiser, a community clean-up, group swim at the YMCA, movie and pizza nights, and a family potluck and Square Dance night. Similar and other field trips and events will be planned for the upcoming year.

Social Action

As Unitarian Universalists, we are compelled to give back to the wider community. Our children are encouraged to participate in social action projects each year. Past projects have included a walk a thon for Habitat for Humanity and Heiffer International's Read to Feed.

Commitment From Church Members And Friends

We believe that it takes a village to raise a child, and thus we encourage all church attendees to participate in the RE program. In taking an hour to share a special talent or interest, an adult can make a lasting impression on a child's life. Feel free to contact Lisa Benoit, the RE coordinator if you are interested in participating or wish to discuss ideas or suggestions. participating or wish to discuss ideas or suggestions.