

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Children and Youth

2018-2019



"Chalice" created by our High School youth

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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MINISTER

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Created by our K-2nd grade class

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Nadine Tringali

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COORDINATOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee for Children & Youth works in cooperation with the Director of Religious Education to plan and develop programming for Preschool through 12th grade. The committee meets monthly and is open to all who are interested.

This year's REC Children & Youth members include:

Elsbeth Fritz, Chair and Preschool liaison

Adrienne Gruver, K-2nd grade liaison

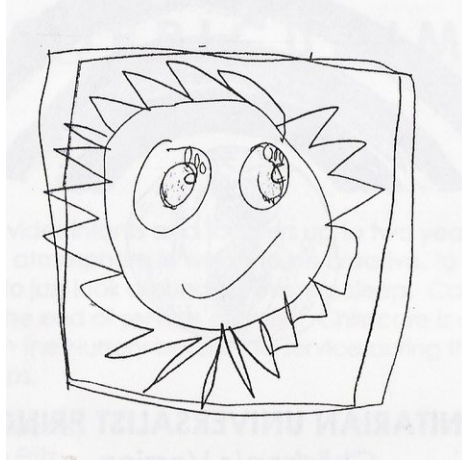
Susan Taylor, 3rd-5th grade liaison

Amy Shaw, 6th-8th grade liaison

Maggie Bartlett, 9th-12th grade liaison

Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, CYP

Nadine Tringali, DRE



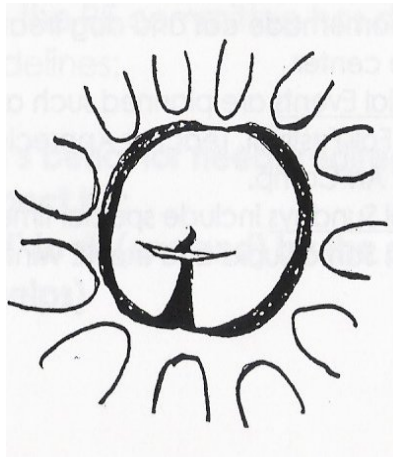
Welcome!

Welcome to Religious Education for children and youth for 2018-2019. If you are new to our church community, I invite you and your family to join us. If you have been attending, or your family is actively involved, may your connection and commitment to our faith community deepen.

As teachers of religious education, we want to give our children experiences that awaken curiosity and nurture questioning as they continue their individual journeys of spiritual development. There will be lively group discussions in the classrooms and multigenerational services and activities, which will contribute to the growth of each and every child.

It promises to be a good year with exceptional teachers, an enthusiastic RE Committee chaired by Elsbeth Fritz and a solid curriculum. Please join us.

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education



OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

Children's Version

“Walking the Rainbow Path”

1. **R**espect all people. They have dignity and worth.
2. **O**ffer fair and kind treatment to everyone.
3. **Y**oung and old together in community.
4. **G**row and find your own truths.
5. **B**elieve in your ideals and voice your vote.
6. **I**nsist on Justice, Freedom and Peace.
7. **V**alue the earth and the web of life.

(1-red, 2-orange, 3-yellow, 4-green, 5-blue, 6-indigo, 7-violet)

REGISTRATION

Parents and guardians are required to complete a registration form for children and youth. Registrations forms are available from the Director and in the information rack in the fellowship hall throughout the year. Registering your children after three visits is required.

ADULT INVOLVEMENT

Our RE program is **COOPERATIVE**; parents are expected to volunteer as a teacher, classroom aide, RE Committee member, or volunteer for special events. Job descriptions are available. We also encourage individuals without children in the program to serve as RE volunteers.

SAFE CHURCH POLICY

To provide a safe and secure environment for the children and youth who participate in church sponsored programs, volunteers involved in supervising minors must complete a Background Check form. Information provided is confidential and is used solely for the purpose of determining a volunteer's qualifications for working with minors.

AGE AND GRADE POLICY

Children coming into the Religious Education programs are generally placed in classes according to their current grade level in school. Exceptions, at any grade level, need the approval of the Religious Education Committee.

FEES

We do not charge a registration fee. However, your financial pledge supports the total church canvass which supports the RE program. Your generous financial support provides us with an adequate budget for purchase of classroom supplies, materials, curricula, etc.

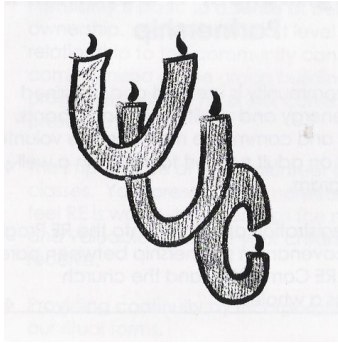
SUNDAY MORNING ROUTINE

Nursery: The nursery is available every Sunday in the Green Room from 9:15am to 12:15pm for infants and toddlers through the age of two.

Religious Education classes: Our preschool class begins at 10:45. Children & youth in grades kindergarten through 12th grade begin in the service with their parents. Following the Story for All Ages, the congregation will sing the youth out to their classes. Classes end at noon for preschool through 5th grade and end at 12:15 for grades 6-12.

STUDENT PICK-UP POLICY

Parents of children in Preschool and K-2nd must go to the classrooms to pick up their children. If someone other than a parent is to pick up a child, please notify the teacher beforehand.



Multigenerational Sundays, Social Action, and Special Events

Multigenerational Sundays are services when children join their families for youth-friendly worship together.

Throughout the year, Social Action projects are planned that involve all children and youth. To help end world hunger we have raised funds for Heifer International, UNICEF, and also thru the “Empty Bowl Project”. Some of our other projects have included: making baby crib quilts, cards for the Caring Committee, activity bags for children in need, Jane Goodall’s Chimp Guardian Project, and Saving Endangered Animals thru the World Wildlife Fund. Each year we also have great fun making homemade cat and dog treats as a fundraiser for a local animal rescue center.

In addition, Special Events are planned such as our RE Summer Camp, Game Days, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, and Multigenerational Events.

R.E. Behavior Expectations

The children and youth that we welcome each Sunday, have a range of ages, interests and personalities. For the teachers to develop a working relationship with the children in only 45 minutes, a few times a month, presents a special challenge. Parents can help by reviewing appropriate behavior expectations with their children and by informing the DRE and teachers of any special learning styles, or considerations regarding your child.

Looking to our principles and purposes, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and promote acceptance of one another. In this spirit of community building, we aspire to teach, and to expect behavior that respects self, peers and adults.

Our valued teachers volunteer their time to prepare and engage our children in discovery and learning. While, at times, any child may need redirection, occasional individuals require more than a reasonable amount of their teachers' "re-directive" energies. It is never in the child's or the group's best interest to permit disruptive behavior. In deference to our principles of respect for the interdependent web --- as it relates to the learning environment, the RE committee has developed the following guidelines:

When a child's behavior needs redirection, they will, with love and respect be:

- 'Invited' to sit (or stand) by the adult. (Proximity often helps)
- Given a helpful task and then reintegrated into the group.
- Offered the opportunity to read a book or draw.

- Escorted to sit with their parents for the remainder of the service/class time.
- Parents may be asked to come into the classroom.

We will always seek to determine and address any cause for discomfort that may be contributing to the child's behavior. By informing the DRE of any special learning styles or considerations regarding your child, we can better meet their needs.

To Help Your Child Benefit the Most from Their Church Experience Consider . . .

- ❖ Being as consistent as possible in attendance. Familiarity is basic to a sense of belonging and ownership. A child's comfort level and relationship to the community can be compromised as the group building process progresses without his or her consistent presence.
- ❖ The importance of your volunteer time in their classes. Your presence demonstrates that you feel RE is worthwhile, perhaps the most lasting and valuable message your children could receive.
- ❖ Providing continuity by incorporating some of our ritual forms.

CURRICULUM

NURSERY

The Nursery provides infants and toddlers through two years of age with a warm, caring atmosphere in which to be creative, to hear stories, to play together, to just look around, or even to sleep.

Supervisor: Nadine Tringali, DRE

Childcare Coordinator: Kendra Georgesen

PRESCHOOL

Soul Matters – Through the use of stories, songs, games, and hands-on activities, we will be exploring our monthly themes, which will correspond with the monthly themes in the service.

Liaison: Elsbeth Fritz

K-2nd Grade

Soul Matters - Through the use of stories, songs, games, and hands-on activities, we will be exploring our monthly themes, which will correspond with the monthly themes in the service.

Liaison: Adrienne Gruver

3rd-5th GRADES

Soul Matters - Through the use of stories, songs, games, and hands-on activities, we will be exploring our monthly themes, which will correspond with the monthly themes in the service.

Liaison: Susan Taylor

6th-8th GRADES

The New You the Creator

The goal of *The New You the Creator* is creative empowerment; helping all participants discover themselves as creators with positive and universal creative forces. With smiles and laughter come new experiences of spirituality and a new understanding of the creative forces in all of us. Four E's inform the program: Exploring, Experiencing, Expanding, and Expressing. And ten themes run through it: Religion and Creativity, Religion and Creative Arts, Arts and Creativity, Creativity and Self, Practical Creativity, Universal Creative Force, Creative Spirituality, Creating Community, Yes You Can, and Creativity for All.

Liaison: Amy Shaw

9th -12th GRADES

Building Bridges, Theme Discussion, Creativity

Building Bridges is a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. We will also discuss the monthly theme and create wall murals and other works of art representing our UU Principles.

Liaison: Maggie Bartlett



Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie will be offering the 10th-12th grade *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* program this year, beginning in October. We will be offering two Orientations in September. *Our Whole Lives was developed* by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. Although the OWL series (K-1, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, Young Adults, Adults) was developed by two progressive religious denominations, it is completely secular and free of specific religious doctrine or reference. However, the underlying values of the program reflect the justice-oriented traditions of both denominations.

Youth Groups

Unitarian Universalists believe that all people are precious and worthy of love. As this message can feel particularly difficult to connect to and necessary during our pre-teen and teenage years, we offer special programming to these age groups that honors their unique experiences during this transformational time in their lives. We gather for sharing what is most on our hearts and making meaning of our experiences. We gather to work together for justice in our communities and in the world. We gather to build community, play games and laugh together.

We value one another and the support we receive in community. Our regular meetings at the church center around a ritualized sharing of what is happening in our lives called Check-in. During this time, we celebrate each other's joys together and support each other in our pain and burdens. It brings us closer together and helps us to navigate the ups and downs of our lives.

We also have special events throughout the year, such as field trips, community service opportunities, lock-ins, parties and regional conferences called CONs. Through these events we strengthen our community by sharing experiences with one another. Many of the events help us to explore our UU faith together – though some are just fun for the sake of fun!

Due to the current makeup of our youth, we are meeting both as separate Middle and High School groups and combined into one large group. Lunch is provided.

To find out about our schedule and special events, send an email to elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org to be added to our mailing list.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Growing Up in Our UU Faith

Age of Reading Ceremony – K-3rd Grade

We celebrate the “joy of reading” and wish to recognize our young readers in this ceremony with the gift of a special book.

Youth Sunday

Each year our youth create and present a Sunday worship service for the whole congregation called Youth Sunday. This is an opportunity for them to share a message that is particularly relevant to them and the larger community. It is a chance for the community to get to know them better and to be inspired by their wisdom. It is a way in which the congregation honors that they are not only our future, but are present leaders and teachers with particular talents and gifts to share.

Child Dedication Ceremony

Child Dedication Ceremonies are Unitarian Universalist celebrations for welcoming a baby or child into our community. This is an opportunity to dedicate ourselves and the child to a life of meaning and a search for his or her truths on the path to a religious or spiritual self. Please contact our Minister, Seth Carrier-Ladd for more information on planning a Dedication Ceremony.

Bridging Ceremony

Each spring, we celebrate the passage of our seniors into adulthood. As we build a “bridge” between their role as a senior youth and their new identity as young adults, we recognize the achievements and contributions each have made to the world and our community and emphasize our ongoing support as they make their own way in our complex world.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 1 - Aug. 19		“Books and Cooks”– RE Summer Camp
August	26	Social Action, Heifer International
September	2 9 16	Game Day! – Labor Day Weekend Multi-Gen Service , Water Ceremony Volunteer Dedication, RE Kick Off!
October	14 28	Youth Sunday Halloween Parade
November	3 17 25	Bazaar in the Woods Harvest Feast Social Action Sunday
December	8 9 23	Making Saffron Buns Santa Lucia Ceremony Social Action Sunday
January	27	Age of Reading Ceremony, K-3 rd grade
March	3	RE Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
April	21	Easter Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt
May	19 26	High School Bridging Ceremony Game Day! – Memorial Day Weekend
June	2 9 16 23 30	Flower Sunday Arts & Crafts Sunday Game Day! Summer Program begins! Summer Program

Subject to change. Please consult the *Unigram* for the most up-to-date information.