

The children's version of the Seven Principles follows.

As Unitarian Universalist we believe that...

- each and every person is important.
- all people should be treated fairly.
- our churches are places where we accept one another and learn together.
- each person must be free to search for what is true and right.
- all people have the right to speak out and vote on things that matter to them.
- we should help build a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- we need to take care of the earth, the home we share with all living things.

Religious Education Team

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All Souls
Unitarian Universalist
Church

Religious Education for
Children and Youth
2011-2012



Philosophy and Mission

All Souls Religious Education Children and Youth Mission

To create a warm and inclusive environment where all participants learn what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, understand the principles of our faith, and have the opportunity to put those principles into practice.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Religious Education program provides a friendly place where children and youth explore and make discoveries as they are guided to develop their own religious identity and beliefs. We strive to create opportunities to awaken souls, deepen questioning, and to help appreciate the mysteries of life and the universe. As parents, you are your children's primary religious educators and we invite you to become fellow seekers with them.



Sunday Morning Routine

Please check-in every Sunday at the RE Table in the Small Hall. Children 3 years old through 2nd grade will wear a number badge that corresponds with their parent or guardian's badge. Parents will turn in their tag and collect their child in the classroom at 11:45 am. 3rd grade and above will be released to come upstairs on their own.

Nursery Care is available for infants and toddlers from 10am to noon all year. Loving, experienced care is provided by our child care professionals and ASUUC volunteers. Parents and guardians are asked to supply labeled bottles, sippy cups, and diapers for their child. Please check in with our nursery staff on your first visit and sign in and out in the nursery.



Children and youth start in the Great Hall every Sunday. They participate in the Worship Service for about fifteen minutes including a "Story for all Ages", and then they are "sung out" to go to their classrooms, where classes last until **11:45 am**.

Snacks are not typically part of Sunday morning classes. Sometimes a teacher will prepare a special snack that relates to the lesson or a child may bring a special birthday snack. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.

Youth Overnights and Activities

9th Grade Trip

The 9th Grade Trip is an annual Coming of Age program for Front Range 9th Grade UU's that culminates in a ten day trip to Hopi and Navajo reservations. Prior to the trip, 9th graders participate in several workshops and retreats learning about Hopi and Navajo spirituality, fundraising and building community.

Mountain Desert District Youth Conferences

District Youth Conferences are held throughout the year. CONS are held at different churches and are wonderful opportunities for youth worship, community building, and self-discovery. All Souls youth will become part of the larger UU community when they participate in these MDD sponsored overnights. Youth must be active at All Souls to participate in the District CONS. The CON schedule is:

9th-12th grade CONS

October 7-9—Youth Assembly, Colorado Springs

February 3-5—Winter CON, Albuquerque

April 13-15—Bridging CON, Denver

6th-8th grade Retreat

January—dates tbd—Golden

Summer Camp

The Mountain Desert District offers a week-long summer camp for Middle School and High School Youth. The camp is held at La Foret in Black Forest. Dates for next summer are July 8-13.

Religious Education 2011-2012

2011-2012

This fall we will be delving into our UU identity and learning about our principles and how they apply to our everyday lives. We will also look at our long UU tradition of reason, questioning, good works and tolerance. The second semester we will learn about world religions and cultures. Children and youth will grow in their understanding of diverse faiths and spiritual practices and how these practices relate to Unitarian Universalism.

OWL

OWL is a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate sexuality education program developed by the UUA. OWL promotes informed and responsible decision-making, and sexual and emotional health in our communities. It fosters meaningful dialogue and parent-child communication. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. This year we will be offering the K-2nd grade OWL.

As Unitarian minister William Ellery Channing said in the early eighteen hundreds, "The great end of religious instruction is not to stamp our minds irresistibly upon the young but to stir up their own."

Milestones

The All Souls Milestones program is a way of teaching and celebrating our UU faith. Teachers work with their students to learn some aspect of Unitarian Universalism. The DRE and teachers will track these accomplishments and award a special All Souls UU award for success during a Great Hall worship service.

Curriculum—Sunday morning PreK-7th

Pre-K: Chalice Children

Chalice Children nurtures children's spiritual growth, creativity, and connection to their UU community through activities such as rhymes, finger plays, crafts and games. The curriculum is based on the belief that preschool children gain a sense of belonging to their UU faith when they have concrete experiences with its people and places.

Kindergarten/1st/2nd: Picture Book UU

This curriculum utilizes picture books for teaching young children about the love, reason, tolerance and good works that make up our faith. The curriculum teaches our younger UUs the art of self-expression, to value individuality, to think for themselves and to understand that everything is connected – in fact, radically related.

3rd/4th/5th: Spirit of Adventure

Spirit of Adventure helps increase children's spiritual awareness and UU identity through active lessons. While learning about UU's who have changed the world, children try engaging activities such as building a graham cracker cantilever (Frank Lloyd Wright, UU architect), taking apart a computer (Tim Berners-Lee, UU father of the Internet), and dramatizing skits on the Civil War (Clara Barton, Universalist founder of the American Red Cross). The first overnight for this class will be Saturday, October 22.

Curriculum—Sunday Evening 8th and Up

6th/7th: Amazing Grace

This curriculum uses role plays to discuss ethics and right and wrong. Through their involvement with this curriculum, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise. The 6th and 7th grade youth will be helping with Great Hall worship services and participating in social action projects during the year.

8th Grade and Up Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet Sunday evenings following First Source. We hope for the youth to attend and be involved with the First Source services. Youth Group will be 6-7:30 every Sunday night and include a balance of worship, social justice, curriculum and social.

8th and 9th Grade Coming of Age

The teenage years are a time of tremendous growth and change. The Coming of Age class is our opportunity to support this time of change with UU ritual, learning and celebration. Once a month, during Youth Group, the 8th and 9th grade youth will meet with their COA advisors and also their mentors. The class will conclude with a final COA Great Hall worship ceremony where the youth will share their credo statements.