

**Welcome** to the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County 2009-2010 Religious Education program for Pre-K through High School. Childcare is provided for infants through three year olds.

## Our Mission

“To provide the youth of this fellowship a foundation based on UU principles and a caring community dedicated to providing a safe environment in which spiritual awareness, acceptance and personal growth can be nurtured and developed according to each child’s unique nature.”

## The Basics

Services start at 9:15 am and 11 am in the Old Stone Church (OSC) with concurring Religious Education classes in Dodd Hall, the building behind the OSC. During the 11 am session children will attend the last 15 minutes of the service for “time for all ages”. **Once RE classes are over, parents assume responsibility for their children and supervise them during coffee hour.** Sr. High meets after the second service at 12:15 pm or as otherwise noted on the Sr High schedule.

During intergenerational services (Water Communion, Christmas Eve, Flower Communion, etc.) there are no RE classes. Nursery care will be provided for children up to three years old. Intergenerational services are noted on the RE calendar, newsletter and orders of service.

The RE schedule is made up of curriculum and special events, including holiday celebrations. On the last Sunday of the month there is one service at 11 am. There is no 9:15 am RE session those Sundays. Please see the calendar in the newsletter, website, listserv and on the bulletin board in Dodd Hall for monthly events.

There are no attendance requirements, although regular attendance is encouraged so that parents and children become comfortable and get the most out of what the program has to offer. Families may come to either service but are asked to indicate which session of RE they plan to attend to give their children continuity and help the teachers plan. **Visitors are always welcome.**

## 7 UU Principles (child-friendly version)

We promise to...

- ... respect all people
- ... offer fair and kind treatment to all
- ... yearn to accept and learn about ourselves, others and mystery
- ... grow by exploring what is true and right in life
- ... believe in our ideas and act on them
- ... insist on a peaceful, fair and free world for all
- ... value our home, Earth, which we share with all living things

## RE Committee

Kathleen, RE Chair

Amy Barrett

Sue Meacham

Kim Mason, DRE

Sue Henshaw

Roma Krauth

## Team Teachers

Our religious education program is only possible with our volunteer teachers. Teaching teams consist of members and friends who have been a part of the FUUFHC community for at least 6 months. Teachers are men and women, students, parents, retirees and even members of our youth community. You can find teaching rosters on the RE bulletin board in Dodd Hall.

## Social Action opportunities

We have opportunities for Social Action during RE and at other times with the NORWESCAP food bank, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity and with other projects through our Social Action Committee. Members, friends and children of the fellowship are encouraged to get involved. Please see Kim Mason about volunteering or starting a new project.

## Contact Information

For more information about the program contact Kim Mason, Director of Lifespan Programs and Services, 908-966-3964, ext. 3 ~ re@hunterdonuu.org

## Worshipping with children

### Children:

- Are full and important members of our faith community. They are welcome here.
- Just like adults, children learn by doing and experiencing first-hand.
- We also know that it is tough for children to sit still for long! Thus we offer the following suggestions to parents and to the gathered congregation.

### Parents:

- Get settled with your child(ren) as early as possible. Consider sitting near the front – children who can see what is happening feel more involved.
- Introduce yourself and your child(ren) to the people sitting nearby.
- Review the order of service and help children understand what will be happening. Share the hymnal and order of service at your child's eye level. Line words with your finger for younger readers or whisper each line before it is sung.
- Feel free to whisper instructions to help children learn "worship etiquette."
- During "Children's Joys and Concerns" feel free to come forward with any young or unsure child. If your family has experienced a significant joy or concern, support your child(ren) if they wish to share during that portion of service.
- If you have a nursing infant or toddler, they are equally welcome in our service.
- You and your family are important here.

## Policies of FUUFHC Religious Education Program

Registration forms will be provided for parents/guardians to fill out so that the fellowship has a record of their children's enrollment and pertinent information. The following policies are on the

**1) The RE program is cooperative and its success will continue because of you - the parents and guardians!** For families who have been attending six or more months, parents/guardians are required to help in the program. The RE Committee will work with you to find the best fit, whether assisting in the classroom, taking part in special RE events, or providing materials.

**2) For the last 15 minutes of the service the children will be brought to the church to be reunited with their parents/guardians. Once services are over, all children are the responsibility of their parents/guardians and need supervision.**

**3) We will have 1 or 2 fire drills during the year. The Fire Drill meeting place is the pump by the old schoolhouse.**

**4) The schoolhouse and grounds belong to the Schoolhouse Association. Climbing any structure is not allowed. In addition, climbing trees, whether on the fellowship property or school property, is not allowed.**

**5) FUUFHC Safe Congregation Policy.** FUUFHC and the RE Committee take the safety of children very seriously. We have an open classroom policy and we will strive to provide a teacher and assistant in each class for a safe and productive learning environment. In addition, the Safe Congregation Policy pertains to other aspects of the Religious Education program. Parents are required to read the policy so that they understand the fellowship's role and parents' role in providing the safest possible environment for everyone. The policy is on the FUUFHC website at <http://hunterdonuu.org/about-us/safe-congregation-policy/>.

**6) To ensure the safety of all children, members and friends, FUUFHC is a nut-free facility. Please be mindful when bringing food of any kind.**

## RE Programming: Infant – High School

Nursery (infants through age 3) 9:15 am and 11 am children enjoy free play, music, snack and story time guided by the Nursery Managers.

### Rainbow Chapel 9:15 am ONLY

The early RE session is a creative interactive program designed for an interage community of learners. Each Sunday students will share in children's worship that includes basic rituals such as chalice lighting, joys and concerns and singing followed by a UU identity program the coordinates with the congregation's liturgical calendar and teaches the 7 UU Principles based on the colors of the rainbow.

## Traditional RE Classes 11 am

### Spirit Play

**11:00 am PreK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade group**

Spirit Play is a Montessori-inspired approach to Unitarian Universalist Religious Education. This child directed program is based around the UU principles and coordinates with the congregation's liturgical calendar ([www.spiritplay.net](http://www.spiritplay.net))

### Faithful Journeys and Moral Tales

**11 am: 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade group**

These are two curricula from the UUA Tapestry of Faith program. Faithful Journeys explores how we each can translate being a Unitarian Universalist into actions, choices and behaviors for positive change. Moral Tales is a story based curriculum that seeks to impart UU values through contemporary and historical stories from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds

### Compass Points

**11 am: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade group**

Compass Points is a UU identity program for adolescents exploring their selves, their beliefs, their UU faith, and their relationships with others and the world around them. They will discover what they believe about life's big questions and have the opportunity to think independently, assume responsibility, make decisions, explore values, and adopt the practice of radical hospitality.

### Senior High youth group (grades 9 - 12)

The Senior High class has adopted the "Five Flames of the Chalice" for strong youth groups from the YRUU office at the UUA: Worship, Community Building, Social Action, Learning and Leadership. Through the concept of youth empowerment and these five components, youth are encouraged to grow socially, spiritually, intellectually and to put our UU principles into action. The youth group meets on Sundays at noon.

## Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Curriculum

FUUFHC offers OWL for Jr. High students (8th and 9th grade) every other year. The goal of OWL is to promote responsibility, respect and relationships. This program does not take place on Sunday mornings. This program will be offered in the 2010-2011 year

## Coming of Age

The Coming of Age program is done throughout our denomination with 13 - 16 year olds as a way to acknowledge the transition from child to adult within our faith tradition. The program will be offered in the spring of 2010. Initial orientation will be in October 2009.

## Calendar

### First Half

Sept 13	Ingathering – Intergenerational	Dec. 6	RE classes
Sept 20	RE Classes	Dec. 13	RE classes
Sept 27	11 AM ONLY	Dec. 20	RE classes
Oct. 4	RE classes	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Intergen service
Oct. 11	RE classes	Dec. 27	New Year's Eve Breakfast/ NO RE
Oct. 18	RE classes	Jan. 3	RE Classes
Oct. 25	11 AM ONLY	Jan. 10	RE classes
Nov. 1	RE classes	Jan. 17	Interage Event
Nov. 8	RE classes	Jan. 24	RE classes
Nov. 15	RE classes	Jan. 31	11 AM ONLY
Nov. 22	RE classes		
Nov. 29	Interage Event 11 AM ONLY		

### Second half

Feb. 7	RE classes	Apr. 18	RE Classes
Feb. 14	RE classes	Apr. 25	11 AM ONLY
Feb. 21	RE classes	May 2	RE Classes
Feb. 28	11 AM only	May 9	RE classes
Mar. 7	RE classes	May 16	RE classes
Mar. 14	RE classes	May 23	RE classes
Mar. 21	RE classes	May 30	11 AM ONLY
Mar. 28	11 AM ONLY	June 6	Intergen Service RE Sunday
April 4	Intergen Service Easter	June 13	Intergen Service Flower Sunday
Apr. 11	RE classes		

**Schedules of your child(ren)'s classes will be available on September 13th and will be online during the year. Please have every adult member sign up to help at least twice during the year in each child's class through Junior High. Older teens are encouraged to sign up also!**

The First Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Hunterdon County



Religious Education  
for Children and Youth  
2009 - 2010

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