

Curriculum for 2017-2018

Nursery | *Infants through Age 2*

Our nursery program provides loving care and supervised activity for infants and toddlers in a child-friendly space on the fifth floor of Wiggin House. The environment is respectful of the child as an individual and encourages discovery. Childcare is available from 9:45 a.m. until 12:15pm. For the safety of the children, we ask parents to pick up their children from the classroom in person.

Preschool (Ages 3-4) | *Chalice Children*

Chalice Children delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist faith. It strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. Early childhood is filled with curiosity and wonder. In a group setting, with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community.

Kindergarten | *Spirit Play*

Spirit Play provides children with a creative introduction to the building blocks of a Unitarian Universalist belief system. This intentional learning environment encourages independent thinking through story-telling and wondering questions. The stories are strongly connected to the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, and are sourced from our UU history and tradition, wisdom from the world's religions, our Judeo-Christian Heritage, Social Justice themes, and inspiring times in the history of All Souls UU Church.

First Grade | *Creating Home*

This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. By allowing participants to self-define their family homes, affirming all families and their members, children are guided and encouraged to be intentional in how they shape their Unitarian Universalist faith home. It is a journey we take alone and in community — a journey of inward reflections and outward actions of faith — open to stories and beliefs from different lands and people.

Second Grade | *Moral Tales*

How do we live out our faith every day? Through stories from many lands and traditions, we will learn about virtues like faith, empathy, generosity, courage, and forgiveness; helping your child grow spiritually and develop a “moral compass.” Together, we figure out what is right and true and practice putting goodness into action every day.

Third Grade | *Timeless Themes: Stories from the Hebrew & Christian Bibles*

How do sacred stories from Christianity and Judaism inform our faith? Third graders and teachers explore stories from the Judeo-Christian traditions of meaning to Unitarian Universalists. Discussions include historical perspective. With games,

conversation, and creative activities, sacred stories come alive as we weave them into our lives and our living tradition.

Fourth Grade | *Toolbox of Faith and Our Whole Lives*

First Half: *Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Fourth Graders* is an age-appropriate curriculum designed to help children gain the knowledge, life principles, and skills they will need to experience their sexuality in life-affirming ways. Fourth-grade parents should plan to attend the special orientation meeting regarding this curriculum. Second Half: *Toolbox of Faith* helps children discover and articulate what they believe, enabling them to claim their religious identities as Unitarian Universalists.

Fifth Grade | *Our Living Tradition*

During the fifth grade year, the students focus on understanding Unitarian Universalism through our Principles and traditions. In the fifth grade a more advanced perspective of our UU Principles is made relevant by learning how All Souls members transform words into actions using the Principles as the guidelines for our beliefs and way of life.

The fifth grade examines how the UU Principles guide us in our interactions within the All Souls community, our greater community, and the world we live in, both in terms of the care and respect we extend towards one another and the world beyond.

Sixth Grade | *Neighboring Faiths/Building Bridges*

The sixth-grade curriculum deepens understanding of the traditions, beliefs and practices of world religions. These studies are combined with visits to neighboring houses of worship in the community such as a Jewish synagogue, mosque, Catholic Church, Muslim Mosque and a Buddhist temple. We introduce worship to our class time with an opening reading and the lighting of candles. We study the history of Unitarian Universalism, while exploring the similarities and differences between our faith and the “faiths across the street.”

Seventh and Eighth Grades | *Amazing Grace and Heeding the Call*

First Half: *Amazing Grace* helps students understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. Its purpose is to equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle- and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through their involvement in *Amazing Grace*, 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.

Second Half: *Heeding the Call* encourages youth to view themselves as agents of change in the world as they develop qualities crucial to justice work. They reflect on their own lives while making connections to the lives lived by others, building self-awareness while growing as leaders. Includes a Justice makers Guide to help youth track their activities outside the workshop and a long-term Faith in Action project to lead youth, step-by-step, in becoming allies to marginalized communities.

In Addition: Fundraisers throughout the year for Monday Night Hospitality; Haunted House; Making soup and bread fundraiser for farm trip; Help with youth service; Heifer Farm weekend; Jr. High Cons; Usher.

Ninth Grade | *Affirmation/Coming of Age*

Coming of Age is the Unitarian Universalist curriculum for youth, age 14, are expected to assume responsibility for their religious journeys. The program offers a safe place for spiritual exploration and deep questioning. Youth are encouraged to actively participate in classes, lead worship, and travel to Murray Grove and Boston to learn more about our denomination's history. The year culminates in the presentation of each participant's credo statement to the congregation at the spring Coming of Age Service.

All Souls Youth Groups | *High School Youth Group, grades 9 – 12*

Activate your faith! Our High School Youth Group is a youth-led social and service group. Supportive and inclusive, each week we share deeply about our lives. The youth group also: leads chapel for the children two to three times a year; participate in youth cons; participate in a Social Justice/Mission trip; leads a Youth Service for the congregation; usher; leads Guest at Your Table; participates in the UU-UNO conference each April; overnights at All Souls; youth worship.

The All Souls Youth Group offers numerous leadership opportunities and creates a supportive and fun community. New members are always welcome!