



2009-2010 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHO ARE UU?

OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES AND HERITAGE

We believe that each and every person is important • We believe that all people should be treated fairly • We believe that our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep learning together • We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life • We believe that everyone should have a vote about the things that concern him or her • We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world • We believe in caring for our planet Earth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT PRAIRIE UU

The Religious Education (RE) program serves infants through adolescents, offering adult-led religious instruction for preschool through high school. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers.

The program is held on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. from September to June, concurrent with the adult service. Summer RE programming is flexible, with an emphasis on age-appropriate activities rather than lessons.

A wide variety of activities are meant to make learning exciting and enjoyable. We often play or work outside or get messy inside, so children should be dressed accordingly on Sunday mornings. Children are encouraged to be full participants in the program, sharing their ideas and opinions and using their creativity.

Youth Religious Education Coordinator: Rebecca Malke youthcoordinator@uuprairie.org

RE Committee Chair:

RE Committee Members: Karen Deaton, Kate Franzmann, Kurt Gutknecht, Yvonne Hiebert, Heidi Hughes, Rebecca Malke and Robin Proud

SPECIAL RE TRADITIONS

Seasonal Social Events

Fall Frolic, *Wild Wintering*, and *Spring Fling* are social events open to all RE participants and their invited guests. These three fun events take place on Saturday evenings, with the option to stay overnight. *Summer Spree* is a weekend-long out-of-town retreat for 6th grade through high school. *Summer Splash* is a Sunday-afternoon pool party for RE families that gives us all a chance to reconnect as summer draws to a close and the RE year begins.

Intergenerational Services

Several of our Sunday services each year are designed to involve children of all ages.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Every third year or so, Prairie offers age-appropriate human sexuality education, using the Our Whole Lives curriculum developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and United Church of Christ (UCC).

Service Sundays

About once a month throughout the school year, RE classes of various ages come together on Sunday morning to work on a community service or social action project.

Spirit Circles

The first Sunday of each month, children of all ages and their teachers start their Sunday morning time together in one big group for a *spirit circle* – a chance to be together and share song, movement, and fun. This year, we will do something new: Spirit Circles will be held outdoors in the yard.

HOW FAMILIES SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM

Parents support their child's participation in the RE program in many ways:

- When your child is registered for the RE program, you need to communicate any special needs or concerns about your child to the Youth Religious Education Coordinator (YREC) and your child's teacher.
- Check in regularly with teachers so you know what is happening in your child's class, and can help reinforce the values being taught.
- Attend teacher conferences.
- Be available throughout classes and any special activities so you can be reached if problems arise.
- If needed, be ready to take care of your child in the event of illness or a behavior problem that makes them unable to stay in class or the activity.
- Help your child understand the expectations for his/her behavior, and how to comply with these.
- Support your child's teacher or adult volunteer in the event of a discipline issue.
- You are responsible to keep abreast of the RE schedule of activities, by checking the Prairie website, RE bulletin board, reading handouts, or talking with the YREC or your child's teacher.

Prairie UU Society is a primarily volunteer-led society, and parents have a crucial role in the program's functioning. Parent volunteers do most of the teaching, lead activities at social events and at the Retreat, and supervise overnights to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for our children and youth. On registering their child for the program year, parents need to commit to support the program in at least one of the following ways:

- Serve as an aide in RE for two 1-month periods (prepare snacks, assist in class),
- \$50 fee,
- Co-teach for a semester approximately 4 Sundays)
- Lead activities and chaperone one overnight

If your child is only registered for a semester, only 1/2 of the above commitment is required. If you serve as a teacher or volunteer in the program, a background check on you will probably be done for the safety of our program.

THIS YEAR'S THEME

OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES AND HERITAGE will give our young people a framework for exploring what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist:

- Applying the UU principles in our lives
- The history of our faith and the people who have shaped it
- The life of our own UU community. With our congregation involved in the Green Sanctuary process, we will have a special emphasis this year on caring for our planet Earth.

The RE theme planned for 2010-11 is World Religions; for 2011-12, Social Justice.

THIS YEAR'S CLASSES

Nursery: Infant through age 2 ½

Childcare providers: Xena Anderson and ???

Our youngest children are cared for from 9:50 to 11:45 am each Sunday when there is a service at the Prairie meeting house. We provide a safe and fun atmosphere. Crafts, stories, play and snacks are part of the activities.

Preschool: 2 ½ to 5

Teachers: Patty Stockdale and Paula Pachciarz

Text: *Chalice Children*

Based upon a philosophy that a child's spiritual development is related to direct experience, this curriculum helps children learn what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Using a chalice theme, children learn about their religious community, engage in sharing with others, and explore a sense of belonging. - *uuu.org*

Grades K-1

Teachers: ??? and ???

Text: *Around the Church Around the Year*

Through this curriculum, 5 to 7 year olds become acquainted with their own Unitarian Universalist community: the people, building, rituals, and celebrations, and the basic tenets of Unitarian Universalism.

Grades 2-3

Teachers: Marcia Johnson and ???

Text: *We Believe*

This program builds on the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Activities encourage participants to incorporate the Principles into their lives. Goals are to explore what students know about our principles, reflect on this knowledge, engage in activities inspired by our beliefs and incorporate that into their daily lives. - *uuu.org*

Grades 4-5

Teachers: Robin Proud and ???

Text: *A Stepping Stone Year*

This program is based on the premise that religion helps people find answers to important life questions and that a religious community can help people in their search for answers. Students will form ideas about how the world began after examining various myths and theories. Classes will also stimulate thinking and decision-making through discovery of the questions, story, lore and vision of Unitarian Universalism: past and present. - *uuu.org*

Grades 6-8:

Teachers: Dan Proud and ???

Text: *Messages In Music*

Explores ways in which the UU Principles and Purposes are expressed and violated in our society. Using contemporary music as a focus, young people learn to incorporate and express UU values in their lives through two projects: musical presentation and a congregational worship service. The first part of the curriculum focuses on the Principles, the second on the Sources of the Living Tradition.

Grades 9-12:

Teachers: Various members of the congregation

Students will learn about our Society's brand of Unitarian Universalism by attending the presentation portion of the service, then adjourning for their own discussion, facilitated by various adult members of the congregation. Students will also participate in Service Sundays and Spirit Circles with the other RE students. Students who do not wish to attend the presentation may assist in younger children's classes.

R.E. 2009 CALENDAR

Updates and further information will be posted at <http://uuprairie.org/re/>

SEPTEMBER

6th **First day of class**

- **Registration 9:30 – 10:00 and 11:15 - ?? downstairs at Prairie**
- **Ingathering of waters service: bring container of water from a summer trip**

13th Regular classes

20th Regular classes

27th Regular classes

OCTOBER

4th Regular classes

11th Regular classes

18th Regular classes

23rd-25th Prairie Family Retreat –No classes

NOVEMBER

1st

6th-8th Fall CON in Evansville, IL

8th

15th Service Sunday—Raking leaves for the elderly

21st-22nd Fall Frolic

22nd Thanksgiving Intergenerational (before Thanksgiving-Nov.26th)

29th

DECEMBER

6th Nifty Gifty

13th Symbol Tree

20th Christmas Intergenerational

27th

Quotations from Unitarian Universalists

“The freedom of the mind is the beginning of all other freedoms.”

--- Clinton Lee Scott

“Unitarian Universalism offers us a faith that challenges our energy usage and confronts us with hunger and injustice around the world without giving inadequate simplistic answers. It offers the harder path of respect for all being and for the Earth, and calls us to be accountable for our actions. We are responsible for our own spirituality, our own salvations, and for doing well that we can do make the world better.”

--- UU Minister Rev. Bob Klein

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do.”

--- Edward Everett Hale

“Our generation has a mission, a clear and evident one; we have a compelling moral purpose which can direct our lives and our energies—literally, we are about saving the world. These days of challenge call us to put aside our pettiness and our little quarrels, our theological differences, and to focus on the larger issues. You don’t talk about the color of the drapes when the house is burning down.”

---Rev. Marilyn Sewell of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon

Famous Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists

American Politics:

John Adams
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Paine
Daniel Webster

Science and Medicine:

Alexander Graham Bell
Charles Darwin
Isaac Newton
Florence Nightingale
Dr. Joseph Workman

Arts and Literature:

Louisa May Alcott
e.e. Cummings
T.S. Eliot
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Henry David Thoreau
Frank Lloyd Wright

Social Reform:

Susan B. Anthony
Dorothea Dix
James Reeb
Lucy Stone
The Weston Sisters

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

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