

Unitarian Universalists draw wisdom from six sources.



Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit

Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society



Children's Religious Education
2016-2017



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY

Our Religious Education (RE) program serves infants through adolescents. Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers. Religious instruction is offered for preschool through high school.



Class is held on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. from September to June, concurrent with the adult service. Summer RE programming is flexible, with an emphasis on playing together as a means to further develop our UU identity.

A wide variety of activities is meant to make learning interesting and enjoyable, while also building community and bettering the world around us. We often play or work outside or get messy inside, so children should be dressed accordingly on Sunday mornings. Children are encouraged to fully participate in the program, sharing their ideas and opinions and using their creativity.

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Service This year our programming will focus on helping our students understand the most pressing social justice issues of our time. Special attention will be on applying UU principles in the development of their own beliefs and views and in giving students concrete ways to interact with each issue.

Principal Action Day (PAD) WORKSHOP SUNDAYS!

During the RE year we will use the last Sunday of most months to hold PAD Workshops. These workshops will be used to address the yearly theme in a multigenerational atmosphere. Workshops will end at 1:30 p.m. Parents and families



are encouraged to spend some child-free time after service.

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2010 Whenona Drive
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Director of Religious Education: Holly Tellander, M.A.
Ed. - DRE@uuprairie.org

RE Committee Chair: Paula Pachciarz

RE Committee: Karen Deaton, Carl Wacker, Robin Proud,
Rev. Sandy Ingham, Rebecca Strome, Holly Tellander
(DRE)

Questions or Comments? Send them to:
prairie_uu_dre@outlook.com



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STAY INFORMED

🕯 Join our RE Facebook page - “**Prairie UU Religious Education Program**”. There are lots of great resources over there, including updated program information, current local family friendly events, and parenting/family resources to help strengthen your connections.



🕯 Take a few minutes to join the Prairie News group. Send an email to our administrator, Dan Klock at admin@uuprairie.org.

🕯 Sign up for email notifications on your registration form

🕯 Check our web site regularly: www.uuprairie.org/re
If you don't have internet access, check the RE bulletin board in our lobby (near the stairs). And, of course, you may check in with your child's teacher regularly.

🕯 Prairie teachers, RE committee members and the DRE are always happy to answer your questions.

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Meanwhile the students will listen to guest speakers, have lunch together, work on service projects and spend time in multi-age bonding. Please see the RE Google calendar, the RE bulletin board in the main entry way or the RE Facebook page for more details. Registration is **required** – programming and lunch are provided at no additional cost to registered families.

Our Curriculum:

Nursery: Infant through preschool

Our youngest children are cared for from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Sunday when there is a service at Prairie. For our youngest learners we focus on building a trusting community. We want our children to feel safe and secure during their time at Prairie while at the same time having lots of fun! Our childcare workers strive to introduce UU values through play and problem solving.

Pre-K – 1st Grade

Curriculum: “Prairie Play”

Join us for our version of the popular UU curriculum 'Spirit Play'. This story based, Montessori-style program will highlight our innate desire to make sense of the world around us through stories that come from our various sources and traditions. Students will feel empowered to 'do their work' each day in a center-based environment as they engage with big questions. Teachers will facilitate wondering in the context of strengthening both interpersonal and intra-personal skills.



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2nd – 3rd Grade

Curriculum: *Harry & UU*

Author: Karen Hager

This social action curriculum is based on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. The class forms Dumbledore's Army and fights seven real-world Horcruxes, such as Illiteracy, Hunger, Poverty, Animal Cruelty and more! Students will achieve tangible results on real problems facing the world.



4th – 5th Grade

Curriculum: Jedi Academy

Author: Jessica Gray

Lead teachers: Karen Deaton & Carl Wacker

The force is strong with this curriculum. Students will work on self-development and mindfulness training exercises in this exciting program. Padawans will be rewarded for their introspection and dedication to development in the five training categories of Skill, Senses, Courage, Insight and Spirit. The focus is on development of mindfulness, peace and justice. Though based on the mythic "Star Wars Saga", students and teachers do not need to know the stories to fully participate.

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SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAM

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society strives to run a dynamic and exciting program that fills a unique niche in your family. In order to create and share this programming with you, we require a yearly registration fee based on the number of students in your family.

1 participating student - \$75

2 participating students - \$100

3+ participating students - \$125

Payments can be made all at once (due September 30th) or in two installments (2nd payment due January 30th.)



We are also very happy to accept volunteer hours in exchange for all or part of a registration fee. Below are some volunteer opportunities that can be applied in lieu of fees:

- Serve as a substitute on our 'on call' list and commit to at least 6 Sundays a year
- Purchase snacks for one quarter (approx. 48 string cheeses and 48 individual applesauce containers)
- Plan one RE event and take the lead on volunteer recruitment, registration and advertisement (i.e. Crop Walk, Pride Parade, Guest At Your Table, or an Intergenerational Service)
- Plan a project in the outdoor classroom and take the lead on getting board approval, recruiting volunteers, implementation and installation
- Plan an RE fundraiser to raise money for a social justice issue and take the lead on information gathering, communication with involved families/students, follow-up with involved organizations, and reporting back to the larger congregation
- Sign up to teach for a quarter (or more!)
- Sign up to assist with Nifty Gifty or a field trip
- Donate your time to our quarterly 'work days' (2-3 per year)

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SPECIAL RE TRADITIONS

Social Events

Social events are cherished traditions for many of our kids. Children may invite a guest to any social events, which include:

- 🕯 *Seasonal events, camping trips and pumpkin patch visits*
- 🕯 *Field trips and community service activities*
- 🕯 *Spring Parish Retreat, fun for all ages*



Intergenerational Services

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

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

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). We will offer a 4-6 OWL class and a 7-9 OWL class in January of 2017. More information can be found at www.uua.org/owl. Contact Holly Tellander for information or to pre-register your student.

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6th – 8th Grade

Lead teachers: Robin Proud & Molly Plunkett

Our middle school students will experience a student-led social justice project and discussion course. In this class students will collaborate with teachers to determine a social justice issue and develop a plan to impact this issue through their combined efforts. What will each class look like? Well this is up to the interests and interpretation of our students. Baking, crafting, discussions and more - all to make an impact on our society and put our UU principles into action!

9th-12th Grade

Text: Compass Points

Author: G. Brown M. Richards

Teachers: Rachel Long & Barb Park

Adolescent participants will be led to sort out their feelings about themselves and their world as they do the difficult work of starting to create their adult selves; discover what they believe about life's big questions; to think independently, assume responsibility, make decisions, explore values and adopt the practice of radical hospitality; to acquire enough background in Unitarian Universalist history, polity and theology that they can know and express what Unitarian Universalism stands for; to understand that religious liberty is a hard-won legacy that continues to need protection.



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GUIDELINES FOR PRAIRIE UU STUDENTS

Prairie is a special place where we strive to treat each other according to our UU principles:

WE BELIEVE THAT EACH PERSON IS IMPORTANT

We include any kids who wish to join a conversation or activity. We listen to each other without interrupting, and we don't tease, yell, swear, or use put-downs.

WE SHOULD BE KIND IN ALL WE DO

We treat each other as we would like to be treated: we ask before using someone else's stuff, and we don't have side conversations, use electronic gadgets, or pester each other during class. We recognize that no sexual activity is appropriate at Prairie, including unwanted touching or kissing.

WE'RE FREE TO LEARN TOGETHER

We participate in group activities and focus on learning together, showing respect to adult leaders.

(If we object to some directions, we question them politely.)

WE'RE FREE TO SEARCH FOR WHAT IS TRUE

We don't make fun of others' opinions, though we may question them. We share our own thoughts and opinions with others, confident that they will treat us with respect.

ALL PEOPLE NEED A VOICE

We share our opinions with people who are planning activities. We may choose not to participate in a group activity or rejoin the adult(s) who brought us.

IN BUILDING A FAIR AND FREE WORLD

We keep each other safe: we don't hit or push each other. We don't throw or shoot things except as part of adult-approved games. We use fire only with adult supervision and we don't play with a lit chalice or put things in it.

IN CARING FOR OUR PLANET EARTH

We're careful with our supplies and property. We don't waste materials or destroy things. We all help clean up our area after an activity and recycle what can be recycled.

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EXPECTATIONS

- ⌘ We ask you, as a parent or caregiver, to support your child's participation in the RE program in many ways: Communicate any special needs or concerns about your child to the Director of Religious Education (DRE) and your child's teacher; Be available throughout the time your child is with us so you can be reached if problems arise. Be ready to take care of your child if illness or a behavior challenge makes them unable to stay in class or participate in an activity;
- ⌘ Help your child understand the expectations for his/her behavior and how to comply with these
- ⌘ Support your child's teacher and/or adult volunteer in the event of need for behavior redirection;
- ⌘ Keep abreast of the RE schedule of activities;
- ⌘ Arrive on time (9:45 AM) and pick up your child(ren) promptly after the service has ended (11:30 AM).
- ⌘ Help with clean-up of toys and materials if your child hasn't had a chance to finish when you arrive at pick-up time.



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