



First Unitarian Society of Westchester

Religious Education 2009–2010

**A Unique Religious Education Opportunity for Children and Youth
and the Adults who lead them.**

Our program year begins September 3, 2009 and concludes June 13, 2010.

Please visit us anytime, bring your children or come alone to scout us out.

Children's classes coincide with the Adult Service at 11:15 only.

Curriculum Overview

Childcare

The Nursery is place where children from infancy through three years will feel welcome, comfortable, and at home. The Nursery is staffed for every service.

Preschool three year olds to 2nd Grade

Spirit Play guides children in living into their own answers to the existential questions: Where did we come from? What are we doing here? How do we choose to live our lives? The structure and key elements of the classroom

are based on the Montessori philosophy.

Each class begins with a story, told by the teacher and reinforced by using physical materials from the story.

Following the story the class considers some wondering questions, and then the children are free to choose an art response to the story, to work at their own pace on their own issues. This accommodates children with a broad variety of learning styles to process meaning from the stories in their own way. The class ends with gathering, reflection and snack.



Grades 3 and 4

Moral Tales Every day our children go forth into a complex world where they are often faced with difficult decisions and situations. Moral Tales attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values

Grades 5 and 6

Bibleodeon tells stories – like the Nickelodeon television channel that helped suggest its name. This is a hands-on curriculum for active children, in which participants explore connections between biblical events and UU principles and values, between biblical ideas and their own lives. They experience the Hebrew and Christian Bible as one of our many wonderful and important UU sources.

Grades 7 and 8

A combination of *Compass Points* where our youth will focus on clarifying personal beliefs and values, and *Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education* which is a comprehensive approach to human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner, based firmly on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusiveness. OWL helps young people apply these values to their behavior and provides them with information and skills they can use throughout life.

This program requires attendance at a Parent Orientation and a commitment from the youth.

Youth Group: Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

High School Youth Group activities include social action projects, youth-led services, attendance at youth conferences, and a variety of fun, community-building activities. YRUU has an event each weekend, some evenings, some off site, and meets on some Sundays at 11:15.

Our mission in the Religious Education Program

- is to provide an extraordinary spiritual, intellectual, educational, and social experience for the children and youth in our congregation;
- to create a safe and nurturing environment in which they feel free to learn together, develop their own theology, build community, and work for a better world;
- and support parents and caregivers in their role as the primary religious educators of their children.

Our Religious Education Program is guided and inspired by the **Principles and Purposes** of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The children's version of the principles:

We believe:

- that each and every person is important.
- that all people should be treated fairly.
- that our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together.
- that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- that all people should have a vote about the things that concern them.
- in working for a peaceful, fair and free world.
- in caring for our planet earth.

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