

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. We strive 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. We also support parents and caregivers in their role as the primary religious educators of their children.

Our *Interim Minister*, The Reverend Jeffrey B. Gamblée, came to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry after a 25 year career in commercial television, and five years as Night Chaplain at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. Pastor Jef is a strong advocate for our Religious Education Program and finds time when not leading the Adult Service to visit RE classes and lead the Children's Service.



Our *Director of Religious Education*, John Cavallero, is a part-time staff member. John was recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association in the Renaissance Program for Religious Education and received the Metro NY District Award for Excellence in Religious Education in 2007. John can be contacted by e-mail at JOHNtheDRE@gmail.com, or

at his home office at (914) 948-0112.

Welcome to the First Unitarian Society of Westchester Religious Education Program

Fall 2010



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



Photo www.arnoldadler.com

25 Old Jackson Avenue

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

(914) 478-2710

www.westchesteruu.org

Religious Education classes coincide with the 11:15 Adult Service. At the end of classes, children join the adults at the coffee service.

About once a month, adults and children spend the first twenty minutes together in the Meeting Room. On most Sundays, our younger children begin with a brief Children's Service, an age-appropriate spiritual and educational experience. Older classes use a ritual opening in their class groups.

You can check our schedule by clicking on the calendar at www.westchesteruu.org

Curriculum Overview

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

Preschool four 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 representations from the story, followed by 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, 4 and 5

Spirit of Adventure — is a curriculum of Unitarian Universalist exploration for active children. It uses the themes of sports, medicine, food, science, and building as ways to discover the people and values of our UU faith.

Grades 6 and 7

Neighboring Faiths — in keeping with all of the Unitarian Universalist Principles, especially the free and responsible search for truth and meaning, this program actively engages young people in exploring the religious traditions around them. Our youth will reflect on what is unique and what is universal in religious experience, explore their own values as they relate to other faiths, become more aware of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other faiths, increase their understanding and appreciation of religious diversity, and go on field trips to other places of worship.

Grades 8 and 9

Coming of Age is a rite of passage program for Unitarian Universalist youth in 8th and 9th grade. It provides experiences that help the youth integrate their childhood into their emerging adulthood, and helps guide them toward a clearer sense of themselves and their place in this congregation and in the world. This engaging and dynamic experience culminates with a youth-led Coming of Age Service in the spring.

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 most Sundays at 11:15.



The First Unitarian Society holds many activities for children, youth, adults and multigenerational groupings. Check the calendar at www.westchesteruu.org