

Our **Minister**, Rev. Peggy Clarke, has been engaged in ministries with children and youth for over twenty years. In addition to working in two high schools and serving homeless and runaway kids in NYC, Rev. Clarke was also the Director of Religious Education at the UU Church in Croton-on-Hudson. Rev. Clarke believes that our ministry to children is one of our most important (and joyful) responsibilities.



Welcome to the First Unitarian Society of Westchester

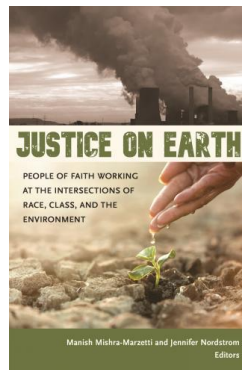
Religious Education Ministry

2018-2019

A Unique Opportunity for
Children, Youth and Adults



Our **Director of Religious Education**, Tracy Breneman, has served four UU congregations as religious educator. She values the unique spiritual path of each child, youth, and family, and feels honored to join you on your journey. Tracy also has over twenty years of experience teaching and practicing conflict resolution and transformation, and serves on the Board of the PrideWorks Conference for LGBTQ Youth and Allies. Contact at DRETracyB@gmail.com.



First Unitarian Society of Westchester
25 Old Jackson Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
(914) 478-2710 www.fusw.org

Our mission is to provide a spiritual, intellectual, educational, and social experience for children, youth, and adults. We offer a safe and nurturing environment in which everyone feels free to learn together, develop their own theology, build community, and shape the world in an image of love. We also support parents and caregivers in their role as the primary educators of their children.

Sunday Morning, 10:30-11:30am

Worship Services: We welcome all ages in our worship services and one of the ways we nurture Unitarian Universalist identity is by worshipping together. We offer a children's area in the sanctuary where children can enjoy quiet activities while experiencing the words, music, and rituals of our faith.

Once each month during the 10:30am hour, elementary age children will enjoy a worship service created especially for them. After children's worship, the high school youth will lead fun community building



activities with the children that promote Unitarian Universalist principles and values. Parents are welcome in children's worship as leaders or to enjoy the experience with their children.

Childcare: The nursery is a place where infants and preschool children feel welcome, comfortable, and nurtured. Activities and stories offer an early introduction to UU beliefs and values.

Children's Classes: During the winter months when there is a break from sports, the children will participate in elementary *Our Whole Lives* classes that offer discussions about bodies, families, and safety, grounded in the principles of respect, relationship, and responsibility. These may promote family dialogue that lays the groundwork for healthy self-image and open communication between parents and children for a lifetime.

Eleven Sunday Afternoons, 12:30-2:15pm

The Unitarian Universalist congregations of Hastings-on-Hudson and Mt. Kisco are collaborating on Sunday afternoon programming for all ages, October 2018 through April 2019. There will be a community lunch 11:30am-12:30pm, followed by programming 12:30-2:15pm.

- Hosted at Mt. Kisco on October 21, November 11, January 13, February 10, and March 10.
- Hosted at Hastings on October 14, November 18, January 6, February 3, March 3, and April 7.

Worship

The afternoon sessions begin with a twenty-minute worship service for all ages, created with children, youth, and families in mind, followed by the programming listed below.

Children

Childcare will be provided, along with community-building activities.

Grades 7, 8, 9 & Parents

Our Whole Lives is a year-long curriculum about relationships, sexuality, and decision-making that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice in a way that affirms the dignity of every individual and the importance of personal responsibility. We also offer a companion series to support parents. Parents are welcome even if they do not have a youth in the class. Both are open to the community; Society membership is not required.

Youth & Adults

Middle school youth, high school youth, and adults will learn about the history and current reality of Indigenous peoples in the United States with guest speakers, films and discussion, and optional service activities during spring break 2019 in New York or on Pine Ridge Reservation, SD.

Adults

Adults will have the opportunity to explore how their beliefs have changed over the years, grounded in discussions about theology with Rev. Peggy.

Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers

The parents, grandparents, caregivers group will offer the opportunity for adults to support each other through structured discussion as they bring shared values into relationships with the children and youth in their lives.

Additional Programming

Westchester UU families with young children through 5th grade will plan activities that help them build community as a family, such as game nights, picnics, and visits to places like the Wolf Sanctuary and Buddhist temple.

High school youth will plan social time to connect with peers and just relax.

Visit our website for more information and schedules: www.fusw.org.

Find us on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/FUSW.UU.