



August 2017 Report to the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Society of Westchester
Tracy Breneman, Part-Time Director of Religious Education
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2017 – 2018 Planning

The 2017 – 2018 RE calendar, class schedules and FUSW curriculum maps are listed online. You are welcome to view them at any time with the understanding that the schedule and classes are working drafts. [Click here.](#)

Jen Rohr and I are planning the RE Ministry Team retreat, which is this Saturday, August 12th. The team will discuss the recent article by Kimberly Sweeny, "[The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation](#)" and Tandi Roger's blog, "[Sweet Spot](#)," which addresses mission, capacity, impact and will. Another agenda item will include introducing yearly themes in RE to help create consistency among classes, which facilitates shared resources, planning, service projects and guest speakers. This is a Neighboring Faiths year for upper elementary and middle school youth so I hope to build a theme around that throughout RE. We will also discuss roles and responsibilities for the coming year.

2017 – 2018 Classes

- The K – 1st grade class will be led by Julia Caldarola. Julia and I met in July and chose Shelter Rock's *Free to Believe* curriculum. This curriculum explores values, beliefs, what it means to be Unitarian Universalist and how we respect beliefs of other religions and faith traditions.
- The 2nd – 5th grade class **might** use the new *Passport to Spirituality* curriculum, developed by a UU religious educator. Children stamp their passport as they 'travel' to different countries and learn about world religions. I need to read through the full curriculum before deciding to use it.
- The 6th – 8th grade class will draw from the *Neighboring Faiths* and *Building Bridges* curricula. The focus this year will be to learn about various religions and faith traditions through class discussion, guest speakers and visits to houses of worship or holy sites. 2nd – 8th grade youth might share site visits.
- I will work with the high school youth group and advisors to create a plan for the year that reflects balanced youth ministry. The concept of balanced youth ministry is [outlined here](#) if you are interested. The youth group advisors are likely Stu Caplan and Julia Caldarola. Julia will only be able to participate if the youth group chooses a meeting time other than 10:30am Sunday morning since she teaches the K – 1st class.

This is the year we would usually offer middle school OWL but we do not have enough youth to form a class, nor enough available adult facilitators. I will invite the few FUSW youth to join the Mt. Kisco OWL class.

I am trying to schedule a meeting with Svitlana to talk about building use and shared space heading into the new worship year.

We are still looking for a RE co-chair to partner with Jen Rohr on a staggered two-year rotation

I have been working with local UU congregations and the region to set the 2017-2018 youth schedule for shared events.

Upcoming Study Leave

August 13 - 18, I will attend RE Week in Ocean Grove, NJ and participate in two learning modules: Youth Ministry/Leading Service Trips with Youth and Family Ministry.