

" What Shall Children Study?

All that quickens sympathetic

imagining, that awakens
sensitivity to others' feelings.

All that enriches and enlarges
understanding of the world..

All that strengthens courage,
that adds to the love of living.

All that leads to developing
skills needed for democratic

participation.. All these
put together are the

curriculum through which

children learn."

Sophia Lyon Fahs

UU PRINCIPLES

WE . . BELIEVE:

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

Dear Parents, Members, and Friends,

Welcome to the Religious Education Program at Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

We are pleased to offer a full curriculum of religious education classes for all ages, preschool through high school. We have a program that is coordinated by a very active and committed Religious Education Committee. In addition to regular classes, intergenerational events and activities occur throughout the year: Flower and Water Celebrations, Music Sunday, Child Dedications and others. Our annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a luncheon prepared by Religious Education classes. Secret Friends, a month-long letter exchange for adults and children, occurs during January and February.

Teams of members and parents, who bring to the Fellowship a diverse background of life experience and religious roots, teach classes. Though we do not charge a registration fee, we ask parents to volunteer at least 3 hours of time per child enrolled in the program. On behalf of the Religious Education Committee, we encourage you to look through this year's program, identify how your time, talents and interests may contribute, and call anyone on the Religious Education Committee to volunteer. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing together!

Jan Fitzgerald, RE Director

Heather Khelah, RE Committee Chair

2009-2010 SUNDAY RE CALENDAR

Sept. 13	WATER CELEBRATION - NO RE classes, nursery open
20	<u>FALL RE UNIT begins</u> -
27	Regular Religious Education classes
Oct. 4	
11	
18	
25	Family HALLOWEEN Gathering in afternoon
Nov. 1	
8	
15	UUSC LUNCHEON – lunch prepared by RE classes
22	
29	THANKSGIVING Jr. Sr. High upstairs/Gr.1-6 combined
Dec. 6	<u>LAST DAY OF FALL UNIT</u>
13	MUSIC SUNDAY
20	<u>WINTER UNIT begins</u>
27	Jr./Sr. High upstairs Gr. PreK-6 Combined
Jan. 3	Secret Friends begins -
10	
17	
24	
31	
Feb. 7	
14	SECRET FRIENDS Breakfast – 8:45 am
21	
28	YOUTH SERVICE
Mar. 7	<u>LAST DAY of WINTER UNIT</u>
14	MUSIC SUNDAY
21	EASTER Jr./Sr. High upstairs Gr. PreK/K-6 combined
28	<u>SPRING UNIT begins</u>
Apr. 4	
11	
18	Treasure Hunt PreK - 8
25	
May 2	
9	
16	Rehearse for RE Sunday (RE presentations)
23	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY
30	MEMORIAL Last day of R.E.
June 6	FLOWER CELEBRATION, NO RE classes, nursery open

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

At Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, teams of committed volunteers who bring to their teaching, diverse backgrounds of life experience and religious roots, teach religious education classes. Though we do not charge a registration fee, parent involvement is required to conduct the program. Here is how you can **Help**:

1. **Register your child**
2. **Encourage discussions of Sunday lessons at home.** Be open to answering questions about your own beliefs and values. Our children look to their parents for spiritual nurturing.
3. **Volunteer to teach.** In lieu of a registration fee, we ask one parent to volunteer at least 3 hours per child enrolled. Either or both parents may serve as teachers, coordinators of special events, or RE Committee members. Teacher orientation and ongoing support available throughout the

SAFE CONGREGATIONS

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. This carries with it the obligation to protect and support the youngest and most vulnerable members of our congregation. As a caring community, we must assure that everyone who comes here feels valued, safe and secure. With this in mind, we screen all church staff and volunteers who work with children. Please see the Safe Congregations Policy for more information or contact a member of the Religious Education Committee.



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of the RE Program is to give our children a solid foundation of Religious knowledge and the experience of UU principles within a supportive fellowship to empower them as adults to live their own religious journeys with integrity.

GOALS:

1. to provide the opportunity to actively experience the UU principles,
2. to impart to our children knowledge of all world religions,
3. to impart to our children a sense of belonging to the religious community of our fellowship, and
4. to stimulate in our children a sense of wonder and worship as they experience and explore the nature of religious and spiritual community and their place in it.

WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER:

Nursery Care - Infants and toddlers are provided for during the 10:30 Service and for other special programs/events as announced.

In-Gathering - Children in grades 1 through 6 attend the first part of the Sunday service about once a month. On other Sundays they regularly gather in a circle from 10:30 to 10:45, beginning with a chalice lighting, to celebrate religious and seasonal themes through song, poetry, story, and discussion. This is a special time for children to develop social skills, appreciate the power of ritual, and experience belonging to their own religious community.

Regular Sunday Morning Classes - For preschool through elementary school children.

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups - Meet weekly at the Fellowship with their advisors.

FAMILY SOCIAL EVENTS

Three or four times a year, intergenerational family activities are planned around seasonal themes. These are usually potluck events, family game nights, picnics, Halloween or solstice celebrations, etc., and are open to all ages. The weekly email newsletter, UNISUN newsletter, the website and the Sunday Announcements insert will communicate dates and times.

MVUUF

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Nursery - Infants through 3 years
Pre-school/Kindergarten - 4-5 yr.
Grades 1 and 2
Grades 3 and 4
Grades 5 and 6
Junior High - Grades 7 & 8
Senior High - Grades 9-12



*For more information,
please contact:*

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2009/2010 R.E.COMMITTEE

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2009/2010 PROGRAM

PRESCHOOL (Ages 2 and 3)

Each week through games, crafts, songs and stories, the children explore the world around them. They discover their own unique qualities and the wondrous characteristics of animals, objects, and people around them.

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN (Ages 4 and 5)

The yearlong curriculum **We Are Many, We are One** emphasizes the similarities and differences of children as well as developing a UU identity and community-building skills. Through stories, games and projects, the children in this group begin to learn about their religious community and tradition, while discovering and expressing their own uniqueness.

ELEMENTARY (Grades 1-6)

For these age groups the Sunday school year is divided into three terms: Fall, Winter and Spring. Each has a different theme. *The fall* unit emphasizes Unitarian Universalist (UU) history and principles. During the *winter* unit, the focus is on world religions. In the *spring* unit, the children learn about our Judeo-Christian heritage. Celebrations of both Judeo-Christian and other world religions take place through out the year.

GRADES 1 and 2

Fall/ Winter/ Spring - Through imaginative arts and crafts, stories and songs, the children celebrate Judeo-Christian holidays and other **Special Times**. **Free to Believe** centers on our seven Unitarian Universalist principles. Together we look for answers inside ourselves and from wise people, world religions, the Bible, science and nature.

GRADES 3 and 4

Fall - Third and fourth graders have fun as they learn about Unitarian Universalism through the curriculum **Toolbox of Faith**. Children gain insight into what makes our faith important in our lives and how they can grow in faith.

Winter - With **Holidays and Holy Days**, this group continues to explore other religions and their special days.

Spring - **Timeless Themes** introduces children to Christian religious literature central to North American culture and to UU heritage. The Bible stories are taught from a UU value structure.

GRADES 5 and 6

Fall/Winter - **The Questing Year** engages the youth in four different quests connected through the central themes and purposes of faith development and social action. Our youth will explore concepts and images of God that are compatible with the UU principles and begin to develop their personal Unitarian Universalist beliefs.

Spring - **Jesus & His Kingdom of Equals** introduces students to an interpretation of the historical Jesus based on contemporary biblical interpretations from the Jesus Seminar.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH (Grades 7, 8)

Fall/Winter/Spring - **Compass Points** is a yearlong curriculum that includes learning about Unitarian Universalism, important texts and god images from other cultures with sessions on the Bible and Jesus.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)

Fall/Winter/Spring - The Senior High youth will select discussion topics from a variety of resources: **Dare to Know** which examines the origins of humanism, **Truth and Meaning** which poses questions about Western religious heritage of Unitarian Universalism and **Popcorn Theology**, a curriculum that uses film as a way to study theology. They will engage in social service projects and group bonding activities.

