

KNOW. FEEL. BE.

The religious education ministry of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation engages the minds, the hearts and the whole selves of our young people. When they graduate from our program, our young people will be equipped for their life-long journey of learning, integrating this knowledge, these feelings, and these experiences.

Our young people will **know**:

- Unitarian Universalist faith, history and heritage
- The value of sacred stories and leaders from other faith traditions
- That meaning comes from many sources
- Their own self worth, and manifest this in healthy relationships
- Their actions make a difference in this world

Our young people will **feel**:

- Committed to Unitarian Universalism
- Called to act out of love, not fear
- Valued and have ownership in their UU community
- Part of something larger than themselves
- Hope, beauty and inspiration in our worship

Our young people will **be**:

- Able to draw strength and comfort in times of grief from themselves and others.
- Accepting of their own and life's limitations
- Open and willing to engage with others in an ongoing quest for truth and meaning.
- Loving, caring and kind
- Engaged in developing their own ongoing spiritual practice

Adopted 3/09

Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Unity Temple, 875 Lake St. in Oak Park



OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 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 should be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- that all people should have a voice and a vote about the things that concern them.
- that we should work for a peaceful, fair and free world.
- that we should care for our planet Earth.

Rev. Emily Gage, Minister of Faith Development
egage@unitytemple.org 708-848-6225 X103

Michele Blonski and Karen Swan, RE Committee for Children and Youth Co-chairs

Religious Education Curricula 2017-2018

Nursery

Our youngest among us are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment.

Preschool **Chalice Children**

Our preschoolers learn experientially about their church and congregation; the program nurtures their spiritual growth, creativity and sense of community.

Kindergarten **A Discovering Year**

Our kindergarteners learn to appreciate the worth of each person, to work and play cooperatively, to express feelings, to celebrate human diversity, and to feel a part of their UU community.

First Grade **Treasure Hunting**

Our first graders learn to treasure themselves, each other, their church and religion, their neighbors and their planet home and explore Unitarian Universalist principles.

First Grade **OWL (Our Whole Lives)**

An eight week mid winter curricula which supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families.

Second Grade **Spirit of Adventure**

Our adventurers will be exploring Unitarian Universalism through the themes of sports, medicine, food, holidays, science, building, exploring, and the web of life.

Third Grade **Superheroes**

Our third graders will learn about some of the strong people who acted with courage and wisdom from Biblical and Unitarian/Universalist traditions, and how they made the world a better place. They will also use their own positive 'superpowers'.

Fourth Grade **A Chalice Celebration / Honoring our Mother Earth**

Our fourth graders explore their UU faith and identity and prepare for the chalice ceremony. After the ceremony in the spring, they'll explore earth-centered traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life.

Nursery through 8th grade at 9:00 a.m., nursery through high school at 10:45 a.m.

Fifth Grade **Bibleodeon**

Bibleodeon introduces Hebrew and Christian stories and engages fifth graders interactively, also exploring connections between biblical events and UU principles, between biblical ideas and their own lives.

Fifth Grade **OWL (Our Whole Lives)**

An eight week mid-winter curriculum that discusses the emotional and physical changes of puberty, and examines topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making.

Sixth Grade **JusticeMakers**

Our sixth graders will be engaged in the cause of justice. They'll work on making the world right, in a mix of purpose and fun, of explanation and action, of self and other, of the spiritual and the practical.

Seventh and Eighth Grade **Neighboring Faiths**

An exploration of different faith traditions, both in the classroom and on field trips, as well as opportunities to reflect on their own faith.

Eighth Grade **OWL (Our Whole Lives) meets Sunday Evenings**

A comprehensive approach to human sexuality, with the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusiveness. Available by option in addition to regular Sunday morning classes over the course of the year; includes parent orientation.

Ninth Grade **Coming of Age**

A rite of passage year devoted to exploring Unitarian Universalist identity, theology, history and spirituality through discussion, drama, music, writing and art. This will be a time for participants to define their beliefs and put their faith into action.

Tenth-Twelfth Grade **Youth Group**

Discussions, activities, projects and learning experiences selected by our young people with input from their advisors. Travel to regional youth conferences.

Our program is almost entirely dependent upon the gifts of our volunteers. We will expect you to donate your time and talent as you can to our collective efforts.