

PACIFIC UNITARIAN CHURCH
A Unitarian Universalist Community

Religious Education For Children and Youth



2011-2012

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A Unitarian Universalist Community
5621 Montemalaga Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Welcome to Pacific Unitarian Church's Religious Education Program for Children and Youth—2011-12



Our Religious Education program strives to provide experience-centered religious education: one that offers opportunities to awaken souls of children, to deepen their questions, and help them appreciate the mysteries of life and the universe. Families, especially parents, are children's primary religious educators. I invite you to become fellow seekers and co-explorers with them.

We intentionally affirm the infinite variety of families. We offer a place in which together we can shape our beliefs, celebrate our discoveries, and live out our values. People of all ages, and families of all kinds, come together as participants in this church family. Our paths are diverse, yet we share the journey. We come together knowing we are welcome as we are.

Unitarian Universalism is a faith for seekers. It is a faith for families. All families matter. Welcome!

Renée Daley, Director of Religious Education

Welcome to Religious Education at Pacific Unitarian Church!

When families start coming to PUC, their children develop a sense of belonging and community. This grows as they experience being included in the worship service and in class where they find a warm, accepting environment in which they can make friends and express themselves. Over time, parents and children experience R.E. at PUC as a comfortable, fun, spiritual element in their journey as a family.

The Youth Religious Education Committee supports our Director of Religious Education (D.R.E.), as well as the children and families of PUC.

Our members come from diverse backgrounds, but share the common goals of youth ministry and living the Seven UU Principles. We see the children not only for who they will be in the future, but for all that they offer right now. We aim to help children find meaning in their experiences within the framework of our faith. To this end, the R.E. Committee puts on special events throughout the year and plans and staffs the Summer R.E. Program. We help recruit teachers and Youth Advisors. We serve as liaisons for teachers and families and assist the D.R.E. in selecting and developing curricula. This is how we serve the children and families of PUC, and we are glad you are here!

Ingrid Slizewski, Religious Education Coordinator

Secret Pal Program—1/22/12 through 2/12/12: Bringing together new friends from different generations through the exchange of letters and “clues.” This event ends with a “revealing” lunch with your Secret Pal.

2nd Happy Un-Birthday Party for All Generations—2/25/12: Hosted by the R.E. Committee. Come and find out who has the same birthday month as you and play party games!

PUC Anniversary Party and Silent Auction—3/17/12: Multigenerational celebration and fundraiser. Watch the PUC *VIEW* for details.

Annual Easter Celebration and Food Drive—4/8/12: We have a special Bunny visitor, Egg Hunt Fundraiser, and Easter activities. We also collect food for the food pantries of the three shelters (Harbor Interfaith Shelter, Toberman Settlement House, and Rainbow Women's Shelter) that PUC sponsors.

Coming of Age Ceremony— 5/20/12: A special service honoring the youth who have taken the affirmation class and written their personal credos to share with the congregation.

Low Attendance Day—5/27/12: Due to the usually small attendance on Memorial Day weekend, there will be no curriculum, but R.E. all-group activities will be held.

End-of-R.E.-Year Celebration and Service—6/3/12: A time to celebrate the end of another wonderful R.E. Program.

PUC Annual All-Church Retreat at deBenneville Pines Camp—6/8/12 to 6/10/12: A fabulous all-church retreat at our district-owned camp in the mountains. Watch the PUC *VIEW* for details.

Please keep informed about other events by reading the PUC *VIEW* and R.E. group and family e-mailings.



2011-12 R.E. Calendar



Water Communion/Homecoming Service—9/4/11 at 10:30 AM: Bring a small vial of water to church from your summer travels (symbolic is fine), and we will pour the waters all together as a coming-back-together-again celebration.

Kick-off Sunday—9/11/11: Teacher Installation at the beginning of the service. All R.E. Classes will begin when the children are sung out of the service by the Congregation. Parents will receive

information about the new year and will register their children in the R.E. Program.

AIDS WALK LA—10/16/11: PUC members annually participate. (*Organized by the YRUU group.*)

Halloween Celebration—10/30/11: The congregation, young and old, is invited to wear costumes to church. The R.E. Committee will host a Halloween celebration for the children and youth during regular class time.

Guest at Your Table—11/20/11: Annual UUSC fundraiser to relieve world hunger and injustice.

Low Attendance Day—11/27/11: Due to the usually small attendance during Thanksgiving weekend, there will be no curriculum, but R.E. all-group activities will be held.

Santa's Workshop—12/4/11: R.E. children sell gift items to the Congregation at coffee hour to donate to Harbor Interfaith Shelter, Toberman Settlement House, and Rainbow Women's Shelter for their holiday programs.

All Classes make Holiday Baskets for PUC shut-ins—12/11/11.

Festivals of Lights Service—12/18/11: A multigenerational celebration of the world's winter holidays and holy days.

Christmas Eve Service—12/24/11: Watch PUC *VIEW* for details.

NO R.E. CLASSES—12/25/11 & 1/1/12.

R.E. Family Pajama Breakfast—1/12/12 at 9:30 AM: Presented by the R.E. Committee as a way for families to gather together in friendship and fun at this halfway point in our year. Wear your comfy jammies!

Unitarian Universalist Principles: Adults' and Children's Versions

Adults: Our congregations affirm and promote:
Children: We believe

1. Adults: the inherent worth and dignity of every person
Children: that each and every person is important
2. Adults: justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
Children: that all people should be treated fairly
3. Adults: acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
Children: that our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together
4. Adults: a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
Children: that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life
5. Adults: the rights of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and society at large
Children: that everyone should have a vote about the things that concern them
6. Adults: the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
Children: in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world
7. Adults: respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
Children: in caring for our planet Earth.



PROGRAM AND POLICY

The Youth Religious Education Program runs each Sunday. There are classes for preschoolers through high school that meet during the service. A short multigenerational time occurs at the beginning of the service, during which the church family shares some sacred time together. Then the children are “sung out” by the congregation to meet in their classes. After service and classes, the church family shares together again at the social hour on the patio.

The R.E. Program has a policy of commitment from the children to show cooperative and respectful behavior at all times. This policy adheres to our UU Principle of believing that each and every person—whether teacher or classmate—is important and should be treated fairly. Continued problems will be addressed with the child’s parents.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

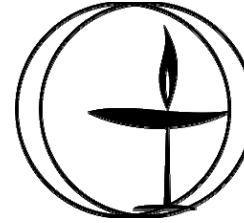
We are very proud of our R.E. Program here at Pacific Unitarian Church, not only for its rich and varied curricula, but also for the many people who share their time and love with the children. Every person who participates enriches and becomes enriched by this wonderful ministry of the PUC community. The success of our R.E. Program depends greatly on the parents. We encourage you to talk to your children about their

Sunday morning experiences and share yours with them. Get to know their teachers and the work going on in the classes, so the learning that begins on Sunday may be extended and reinforced during the week. There will be many opportunities this year to join in the R.E. experiences around the church. ***The R.E. Program is cooperative and entirely volunteer-led; therefore, it is expected that the parents of the children in the Program will be involved during the year.***

REGISTRATION

All returning and new children need to be officially registered each year. If you are new to the church community, we ask that you register your child after three visits, or when you decide to attend regularly. Registration is free, and forms are available in the R.E. Office.

The Religious Education Program is a priority in our congregation and is supported through the church’s operating budget. Families are encouraged to support the Program financially through their pledges, in accordance with their resources.



Affirmation/Coming of Age Class (8th and 9th grades): January-May 2012

This is an elective program for youth who are ready to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and Pacific Unitarian Church, and most importantly, themselves. It is time-intensive, with a need for a strong commitment by participants. The rewards are overwhelmingly worth it!

The class is designed to honor a very special Rite of Passage, the transition from childhood to young adulthood. It celebrates a considered decision to embrace Unitarian Universalism as one’s own spiritual and faith path in life.

The participants will develop their own personal credo (affirmation statement) with the help and guidance of an adult mentor from the congregation. They will be recognized and honored by the congregation during a special service in the spring.

Please see Renée Daley or Kathy Rickey (Coming of Age Coordinator) if you would like your child to participate, or if you would like to be considered as a mentor to one of the youth.



Voyagers (6th - 8th grades) Families

What is a family? What does a family do? Who defines family? This program provides avenues for in-depth exploration of the diversity, commonality, and meaning of families. It combines a photo-documentary project with sessions that engage participants in deconstructing and reconstructing the notion of family. The facilitators create a safe space that allows youth to explore freely, to share their own thoughts, prejudices, hopes, and stories.



Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

(9th-12th grades)

*Sharing the Journey:
Small Group Ministry for Youth*

Small group ministry can be a way to help individuals build relationships, experience a greater sense of belonging, and feel supported in their spiritual journey in the congregation. This resource aims to answer questions and provide encouragement for youth seeking new ways to engage in Unitarian Universalism.

CHILD SUPERVISION AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Childcare is provided from 10:15 AM-12:15 PM for those children under three years old. Preschoolers through 12th graders may leave for classes after the multigenerational time of the service. During class time, any child not wishing to participate is welcome to remain with his or her parents in church. Children attending class must be picked up by a parent or guardian within 10 minutes of the end of the service, allowing our teachers and children to join the multigenerational coffee hour.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

It is important for us to be aware of allergies, developmental challenges, or other special needs that a child might have. Please share this information on the registration form and/or directly with the Director of Religious Education. Efforts will be made to keep the information as private as possible in order to make each family feel comfortable.

We encourage all children, youth, and adults to uphold a behavior covenant here at PUC based on a promise we make to one another about how we can create a safe and sacred place for all:

- Everyone is treated with respect. We speak kindly and act fairly to each other.
- We listen to each other and share our own ideas, and we participate in activities to the best of our abilities.
- We do not judge or make fun of one another.
- We do not damage what belongs to our church or to other people.
- We are careful not to run in the halls, buildings, and outside areas so as to avoid accidentally knocking into someone else.
- We clean up our messes, don't waste supplies, and recycle whatever we can.
- No child will be in a classroom without the supervision of an adult.
- Since we share the space with Children's World Learning Center, all children and adults are expected to clean up the classrooms and/or yard before they leave for the morning.



TAPESTRY OF FAITH PROGRAM

We will be exploring the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* curricula, which includes programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love. These resources emerged from a broad series of conversations among UU Churches that articulated a future direction for Unitarian Universalist religious growth and learning. Denomination-wide focus groups were then formed to help shape a program that would offer a variety of resources—downloadable, printable, viewable, interactive, and more—that would foster a religious growth-and-learning program for the twenty-first century.

Tapestry of Faith offers a vision shaped by these key beliefs:

- All people are lovable beings of infinite worth, imbued with powers of the soul. We are obligated to use our gifts, talents, and potentials in the service of life.
- We carry on our Unitarian Universalist religious heritage and are part of a community of faith that has value and provides resources for living.
- We honor our responsibility for the care and creative transformation of our religious heritage and community of faith.
- We are moral agents who can make a difference in the lives of other people by challenging structures of social and political oppression; promoting the health and well-being of the planet; and acting in the service of diversity, justice, and compassion.
- We recognize the need for community and affirm the importance of families, relationships, and connections between and among the generations.
- We appreciate the value of spiritual practice as a means of deepening faith and integrating beliefs and values with everyday life.
- Joy and sadness are part of our lives: hope, mystery, joy, healing, and personal transformation come together with life's challenges.

Tapestry of Faith's goals:

- Ethical development
- Spiritual development
- Unitarian Universalist identity
- Faith development

Tapestry of Faith offers several programs at many levels. We will be using four programs this year in our R.E. Program. All programs focus around four themes that create intentional, multigenerational opportunities:

- Living Faith
- Seeking Truth
- Creating Love
- Serving Community

If you would like to read more about this innovative program from the UUA, go to www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children need to learn Unitarian Universalism with their minds, hearts, and hands. They need meaningful, integrated experiences that are anchored by soul-stirring narratives. They need to learn faith by doing faith. They need experiences that nurture a belief in the transformative power of justice and love.

Pixies (3 & 4 year olds) ***Celebrating Me and My World***

This program encourages young children to feel good about themselves and will let them know they are part of a nurturing and supportive community. They will meet many people from the church and see many parts of PUC. They will learn that they are an important part of this congregation.

Hobbits (K- 2nd grades) ***Wonderful Welcome***

In this program, children identify intangible gifts central to Unitarian Universalism—such as friendship, hospitality, and fairness—and share these gifts with others.

Sojourners (3rd - 5th grades) ***Toolbox of Faith***

This program invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith—such as integrity, courage, and love—as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith.