

# Welcome!

The focus of our program this year will be Unitarian Universalist identity. Using age-appropriate lessons, we'll be exploring such questions as. . .

- ◆ What makes Unitarian Universalism unique?
- ◆ Who are some famous UUs and what did they believe in?
- ◆ How do we put our UU values into action?

We hope that you and your family will enjoy being part of this exploration. To register your child or to obtain more information about our program, please contact:

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Director of Religious Education

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610-371-9199

## First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County

~A Welcoming Congregation~

[www.uuberks.org](http://www.uuberks.org)

Ph 610-372-0928

416 Franklin Street  
Reading, PA 19602



### Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes

#### Children's Version

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 continue learning together.

that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

that everyone should have a vote about the things that concern them.

In working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

In caring for our planet Earth.

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

### Program Guide 2009/2010

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Berks County

## Our RE Program

### Worship for All Ages

Our church enjoys many unique and meaningful traditions throughout the church year. We include our young people in special services celebrating holidays and UU rituals such as the Water Communion and the Flower Communion. We also celebrate personal milestones with child dedications and bridging ceremonies for graduating seniors.

### Beyond Sunday Morning

In addition to regular Sunday classes, we will have field trips, game nights, potluck dinners, and community service activities.

### Sunday Morning Schedule

- 10:15 Nursery opens.
- 10:30 Worship Service begins.
- 10:45 RE classes begin.
- 11:30 Worship service concludes and parents pick up their youngest children from the nursery.
- 11:45 RE classes conclude. Children up to grade 2 should be picked up at their classroom. Those in grade 3 and above will come to the Gerber Room.

## Sunday Morning Religious Education

### Nursery

Child care is available every Sunday from 10:15 - 11:30 for children aged 3 and under in our cozy nursery by our experienced care provider Alice Kline. Parents are welcome to stay with their young child if they wish, and can listen to the service via built-in speakers.

### Preschoolers (age 3-5)

Using the **Chalice Children** curriculum, our very young UUs will get to know our church building and community through stories, crafts, and group games.

### Kindergarten- Grade 2:

The first half of the year, this class will be introduced to "UU Superheroes"—Unitarian Universalists who made a difference in the world such as Henry David Thoreau, Olympia Brown and Christopher Reeve. In the Spring, in recognition of our 7<sup>th</sup> principle, the students will turn their class into a rainforest, enjoy a rainforest tasting party and explore the concept of biodiversity using the new **Celebrating the Rainforest** curriculum.

### Grades 3-5

**Toolbox of Faith** (the curriculum for the Fall term) invites class participants to reflect on the 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. Each of the sessions uses a tool

as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight). In the Spring, using the **Stepping Stone Year** curriculum, this group will learn about the lives and achievements of famous UUs.

### Grades 6-12 will follow a rotation schedule:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays: Worship/Music Share/Game Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—Curriculum
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays—Faith in Action (work on social justice project)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays—Exploring the Arts (guest artists)

The Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) will be using a curriculum called **Popcorn Theology** which gives them the opportunity to explore theology and ethics from a UU perspective using clips from popular movies, such as *Back to the Future*, *Bruce Almighty*, and *Jurassic Park*.

On their curriculum Sundays, High school students in grade 9-12 will have the option of using a new UUA course entitled **Exploring Our Values Through Poetry**. Other curriculum options will be discussed on the first day of class.

*'One condition for religious freedom is exposure to more than one way of thinking and believing. The ability to grant such freedom requires in the educator a respect for the children's ability to think and a trust in the power of truth.'*

*-Sophia Lyon Fahs*

*Unitarian-Universalist Religious Educator*