



**NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

Sara LaWall
Director of Religious Education

301 N. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91103 (626) 449-3470 Fax (626) 449-3472

Dear 4th & 5th grade Parents/Guardians:

During the coming church year, Neighborhood's Youth Religious Education program will offer our fourth and fifth graders an exciting class using two Unitarian Universalist curricula, *Toolbox of Faith* and *Bibleodeon*. All of our classes from K – 5th grades will be using curricula focused on the themes of Unitarian Universalist Identity and Judeo-Christian teachings.

Toolbox of Faith invites 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 16 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). Reflecting on the qualities (tools) of our faith, children and leaders gain insight into what makes our faith important in their lives, and how they can grow in our faith.

Bibleodeon is an experiential program introducing young UU's to stories of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. With this program, children will understand the importance of the Bible to millions of people, possibly including some in their own lives, gain a basic understanding of the Bible's history and power and recognize the relevance of Bible stories to contemporary life. Bible stories and references have shaped our western culture. In U.U. church schools, it is important for children to learn about the Bible through the U.U. lens of cultural and historical context.

The YRE committee and staff will be hosting a **Parent Orientation Wine and Cheese mixer on Wednesday, September 15, from 6:30 – 8:30pm** to provide an opportunity for parents to hear more about the curriculum, program philosophy and logistics. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by September 6th to Sara LaWall at slawall@uuneighborhood.org or 626-449-3470 ext. 19. Please include the ages of your children should you need childcare.

New Fee Structure. Families with children or youth in our program are asked to either make a financial contribution (pledge) to the church, or pay a program fee. The fee stands at \$100 per child/youth with a family maximum of \$300 for the year. Should this fee be a financial hardship for any family, a one-year waiver may be requested from either of our Ministers or the Director of Religious Education. If you are new, we encourage you to take your time to get to know us. As such, fees will not apply until the second year of participation in the program.

(OVER)

The following are a few important administrative items about the structure of our program and the year. For further information, please consult the YRE Handbook included in this mailing:

- ❖ **The first day of class will be Sunday, September 19.** This program will be offered at both the 9:30 and 11:30 services.
- ❖ **We request that all families participating in YRE complete a registration form.** These forms are crucial because they include emergency contact information, space to share any special needs and a blanket permission slip for all off-site activities like a walk to the Gamble House. **Please return your completed form no later than August 15th.**
- ❖ **Parent participation required.** Your help is vital to the success of our RE program. Assisting in the classroom, with special projects and at the Lifelong Learning table is expected of all parents. **Please fill out the volunteer requirement section on the back side of your child's registration form.**
- ❖ **Music Sundays!** Once a month the children will come together to experience music and singing as part of their classroom activities. Music will correlate with worship themes where possible and be used in subsequent Intergenerational services.
- ❖ **Story for all ages: on the second Sunday of every month,** children are invited into the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service to hear a story, then meet their teachers on the patio and go to their classes.
- ❖ **Intergenerational services:** throughout the year, we will have Intergenerational services in which the children and youth (K – 12th) are in the sanctuary for the entire service. These services provide an important opportunity for children to experience first-hand the way their parents worship in the sanctuary when they would usually be in their classrooms.

Please return the registration form as quickly as possible in the envelope provided or by leaving it at the Lifelong Learning table. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your involvement; thank you for recognizing the need for religious education in your children and youth's lives...thank you for adding your presence to this community. We are thrilled to have your family among us and look forward to an exciting year!

See you in church,



Sara LaWall
Director of Religious Education