



**NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**Sara LaWall**  
Director of Religious Education

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Dear Pre-Kindergarten (Chalice Children) Parents/Guardians:

During the coming church year, Neighborhood's Youth Religious Education program will offer our older pre-kindergartners an exciting class using the UU curriculum *We Are Many We Are One*. This curriculum is designed for pre kindergarten, ages 3 ½ to 5.

The *We Are Many We Are One* curriculum is based on the philosophy that young children learn about religion through *relationships*. This curriculum offers young children the opportunity to learn about their religious community and tradition, as well as the freedom to discover and express their uniqueness.

The goals of this program include the following:

1. To create an atmosphere that invites religious growth and learning;
2. To feel support and affirmation for one's individuality;
3. To experience a sense of belonging and importance as members of a group;
4. To begin learning how to make their class a peaceable and friendly place;
5. To connect with the classroom and congregation as an open, straightforward place where all aspects of life can be discussed.

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 27 to Sara LaWall at [slawall@uuneighborhood.org](mailto: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.

- ❖ **The first day of class will be Sunday, September 12.** 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 an area for your emergency contact information, and an area for you to inform us of any special needs or allergies your child may have. **Please return your completed form no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>.**
- ❖ We will continue requiring parents of infants, toddlers and preschool children to **sign their children in and out each week and leave a cell phone number if during services we need to reach you.**
- ❖ **Story for all ages:** on the second Sunday of every month, all children will attend worship with their families in the Sanctuary for the first part of the service to hear a story, then meet their teachers on the patio and go to their classes.
- ❖ **Parent participation required.** Your help is also vital to the success of our RE program. Assisting in the classroom, with special events and at the Lifelong Learning table is expected of all parents. **Please fill out the volunteer commitment section on the back side of your child's registration form.**
- ❖ **A copy of the Youth Religious Education Handbook** is included in this mailing. Please take some time to review it carefully as it includes complete details and information about our program. This handbook will answer many of your questions.

**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