



**NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**Sara LaWall**  
Director of Religious Education

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Dear Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade Parents/Guardians:

During the coming church year, Neighborhood's Youth Religious Education program will offer our Kindergarten and first graders an exciting class using two Unitarian Universalist curricula, *Picture Book UU* & *Picture Book Bible Tales*, each designed around beautiful children's books. The enclosed Sunday curriculum plan lists the titles and authors of the books this class will be reading each Sunday. Lessons have been carefully chosen to complement the monthly worship themes. All of our classes from K – 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be using curricula focused on the themes of Unitarian Universalist Identity and Judeo-Christian teachings.

*Picture Book UU* introduces young children to our UU faith using some of the best-known, heart-melting children's books as the focus of each session. Books include, *Miss Rumphius*, *The Keeping Quilt*, and *All I See is Part of Me* to name a few. Each lesson also includes fun and friendly activities like junk sculpture, dramatic play, bells for joy and justice, and ties to one of our UU principles and sources.

*Picture Book Bible Tales* illustrates classic Bible tales through children's literature, using high-quality picture books. Each lesson begins with the story then follows with a range of activity choices for all learning styles. These tales 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 15<sup>th</sup>.**
- ❖ **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 – 12<sup>th</sup>) 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  
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