



**NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

**Sara LaWall**  
Director of Religious Education

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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, *Love Connects Us* and *We Believe*. Both curricula focus on our yearlong theme of UU Identity by exploring our UU Principles, Sources and history.

**Love Connects Us** is part of our Unitarian Universalist Association's new curriculum series designed to nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, and a transforming faith. Best of all, these curricula are available for free, online and are customizable to suit classrooms and individuals. This program celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. The sessions explore our legacy, from both Universalism and Unitarianism, of living our connections in loving service, inquiry, and action for social justice. At the same time, the program builds active participants in our faith. Children learn how our actions create a new heritage of connecting in love, which will shape the faith of future generations. Check out this incredible curricula series at [www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith](http://www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith)

**We Believe** focuses on our seven UU principles as starting points for exploring values, beliefs and what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Lessons will also explore UU historical figures and how they embodied these principles and shaped our faith.

The YRE committee and staff will be hosting a **Wine and Cheese Mixer and Parent Orientation on Thursday, 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 1<sup>st</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.

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 available on this website, or the Lifelong Learning table on Sundays:

- ❖ **The first day of class will be Sunday, September 18.** This program will be offered at both the 9:30 and 11:30 services.
- ❖ **All families participating in YRE must complete a registration form.** These forms are crucial because they include emergency contact information, space to share any special needs your child may have and a blanket permission slip for all off-site activities like a walk to the Gamble House. Forms available on this website. **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 almost 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 or leave 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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