



**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 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 *Chalice Children*. This curriculum is designed for pre-kindergarten, ages 3 ½ to 5.

The *Chalice Children* 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 U.U. 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 **Wine and Cheese Mixer and Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, September 15th – 6:30-8:30 pm**. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for parents to hear more about the curriculum, program philosophy and logistics, and to socialize. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by **September 1st** to Sara LaWall at slawall@uuneighborhood.org or 626-449-3470 ext. 19. Please include the ages of your children should you need childcare.

The following are a few important administrative items about the structure of our program and the year. For further information, please contact me or consult the RE Handbook which is available online and also will be available on the Lifelong Learning table beginning in September:

- ❖ **The first day of class will be Sunday, September 11.** 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, and space for you to inform us of any special needs or allergies your child may have. Forms are available on this website. **Please return your completed form no later than August 15th.**

- ❖ We will continue requiring parents of infants, toddlers and preschool children to **sign their children in and out each week, leave their cell phone number on the sign-in sheet and put their cell phones on vibrate in case we need to reach you during services.**
- ❖ **Story for all ages:** on the second Sunday of almost 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 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 Parent Commitment area of your child's registration form.**

Please return the registration form as quickly as possible. You may bring completed registration forms to the Lifelong Learning table or give them to your child's teacher any Sunday through September. 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.

See you in church,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara LaWall".

Sara LaWall
Director of Religious Education