

Religious Education for Children and Youth

WELCOME to the Channing Church Cooperative Religious Education (RE) Program! At Channing, children receive a comprehensive religious education designed to nurture a clear sense of self-worth and confidence, to build an appreciation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to encourage a lifelong search for truth and meaning in a free and responsible way.

Childcare for infants and toddlers - Our youngest children are invited to spend the time during our worship service in the nursery under the loving attention of our paid caregivers. Unlike the other classes, children are dropped off before the 10 a.m. service begins. During Intergenerational Services, child care is available for children from infancy to age five. ***All children must be signed in before and out after service or classes by a designated adult.***

Preschool - The class will follow a year-long curriculum called *Chalice Children* offering an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. Our children learn that Channing is a safe supportive place to begin to learn about our UU Principles, and to begin, at this tender age, to develop a UU identity.

Elementary Ages

Fall/ Winter - Unitarian Universalist Identity: Tapestry of Faith, September 20 - March 7

Grades Kindergarten and 1 - *Creating Home* : Participants explore the purpose and functions of a home for people and for other animals. The program describes home as a place of belonging and introduces the concept of the congregation as a "faith home." Like a family home, a faith home offers its members certain joys, protections and responsibilities.

Grades 2 and 3 - *Moral Tales*: Moral Tales provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. The stories in Moral Tales draw from all our UU Sources to activate and inform the children's learning how to make moral choices.

Grades 4 and 5 - *Toolbox of Faith*: Toolbox of Faith invites fourth- and fifth-grade participants to reflect on 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).

Early Spring - World Religions : Neo-Paganism, March 14 - May 2 All Elementary grades - Using the book, *Come Into the Circle*, and drawing on the wisdom and practice of Pagan members of our congregation, we will learn about this nature based religion. The unit will culminate in an intergenerational Beltane service on May 2nd.

Late Spring - Social Justice : Heifer International, May 9 - June 13 All Elementary Grades - Using materials provided by Heifer International, we will learn about social justice issues of hunger, poverty and water rights. Children will also raise funds for Heifer projects and learn about empowering people through sustainable development, passing on the gift, peace, and gender equity.

Youth

Grades 6, 7, and 8 - *Amazing Grace*: This program guides sixth graders through ways to determine right from wrong and act on their new understandings. Its purpose is to equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle- and high-school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum.

Senior Youth Group - Our high school youth meet periodically on Sunday evenings, when they explore deep and profound 'mongo cosmic questions,' as well as engage in social justice projects and worship. Social outings and district events are also planned.

Our Whole Lives - Grades 4 and 5 : (January - March) Our Whole Lives is the comprehensive human sexuality course developed by the UUA. Trained facilitators lead an 8-session program for learning about the physical and emotional changes of puberty, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making.

Our Whole Lives - Grades 7 and 8 : (All Year) *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. This class is closed after September 13th.

2009 - 2010 R E Calendar

September

13th Intergenerational Ingathering and Open House
20th Religious Education Classes begin
27th Regular classes

October

4th Regular classes
11th Chalice Circle Worship/food collection, Social Justice Event
18th Regular classes
25th Fall Frolic

November

1st Intergenerational Service
8th Chalice Circle Worship/food collection, classes
15th Regular classes, UUSC Guest at Your Table box distribution
22nd Intergenerational Thanksgiving
29th Social Justice Event

December

all month - Giving Tree, Soup Kitchen gifts collection
6th Regular classes
13th Chalice Circle Worship/food collection, classes
20th Winter Holiday Intergenerational Service
27th Social Justice Event

January

3rd Regular classes
10th Chalice Circle Worship/food collection, classes
17th Social Justice Event
24th Regular classes, Mystery Friends Program begins

February

7th Regular classes
14th Mystery Friends Intergenerational Service
21st Social Justice Event
28th Regular classes

March

7th Regular classes
14th- Chalice Circle Worship/food collection, classes
21st Regular classes
28th Regular classes

April

4th Intergenerational Easter Service and Parade
11th Regular classes
18th Social Justice Event
25th Regular classes

May

1st R.E. Volunteer Pancake Breakfast,
2nd Beltane Intergenerational Service
9th Chalice Circle Worship and Food Pantry Collection
16th Intergenerational Choir Sunday
23rd Regular Classes and Bridging Ceremony for Senior Youth
30st Social Justice Event

June

6th Regular Classes

13th Intergenerational Celebration, Ice Cream Social

20th Father's Day

27th Summer Program Begins

July

all month Summer Program

4th Childcare only

August

all month Summer Program