

YOUTH GROUPS

With the guidance of volunteer advisors, our youth groups strengthen each young person's commitment to our parish and religion and provide opportunities for peer support and friendships. Meetings include chances to participate in field trips, worship, social action projects, leadership opportunities, and plenty of fun!

Junior Youth Group (6th-8th grade)

2nd and 4th Sundays: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Senior Youth Group (9th-12th grade)

1st and 3rd Sundays: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available from the church office or at www.northparish.org. We follow safe congregation guidelines, including a "two-adult" rule, background checks, and volunteer training.

A \$30.00 registration fee per child (maximum \$60 per family) applies to all programs. Waivers are available by contacting Danielle Gerrior at dre@northparish.org or 978-685-7855.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM, What We Believe

Our Religious Education program is based on seven principles, which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- *Inherent **worth and dignity** of every person*
- ***Justice, equity and compassion** for all people*
- ***Acceptance** of one another and encouragement to **spiritual growth***
- *Free and responsible **search for truth and meaning***
- *Right of **conscience** and use of **democratic process***
- *World community with **peace, liberty and justice** for all*
- *Respect for the **interdependent web of life***

**The NORTH PARISH
of NORTH ANDOVER**
Unitarian Universalist
Spirit · Community · Equality



The North Parish of North Andover
3 Great Pond Road North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 687-7948 · www.northparish.org
October, 2009 (CMZ)

Religious Education For Youth and Their Families



The North Parish of North Andover

Rev. Lee Bluemel
Minister

Danielle Gerrior
Director of Religious Education



WELCOME!

We are pleased to invite you and your children to be part of our welcoming faith community, which values each child and every family! Through worship, small

groups, personal reflection, and social justice work, we are all engaged in growing our spirits that we might bring more love into the world.

Our goals for the children's religious education are to:

- Help children and families embrace life fully, with its wonder and mystery as well as its challenges and sorrows.
- Create a caring intergenerational community where each child is known and cherished.
- Provide children experiences with spiritual wisdom from the sources of our Unitarian Universalist tradition.
- Empower children to carry their faith into the world through the way they live their daily lives.

SUNDAY MORNING

Nursery (children up to age four)

Our youngest ones are cared for by an adult professional and teens hired by the parish. Nursery staff are happy to greet you and your child a few minutes before the adult service begins in the sanctuary. Sundays: 9:00 and 11:00 am

Grades Pre-K to 5th

Children begin each Sunday morning in the sanctuary with their families for the first part of worship service before heading to their classrooms for religious education or to children's chapel. Religious education classes are led by volunteer parents and church members. Children participate in small group discussions and activities designed to help them discover connections with their own lives, families, and our UU heritage. Sundays: 9:00 and 11:00 am

Grades 6th & 7th

On the first and third Sundays of the month, youth gather in small groups led by volunteer parents/teachers where they explore other faiths and beliefs, including field trips to other faith communities. 1st and 3rd Sundays: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our whole lives (8th grade)

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education program informed by Unitarian Universalist values and taught by trained leaders. Underlying OWL is our understanding that our bodies are sacred and that sexuality is a gift that requires knowledge and responsibility. 1st and 3rd Sundays: 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Coming of age (9th grade)

Coming of Age (COA) is a mentored program to help youth assume responsibility for their faith journeys. Participants explore personal spirituality and religious questions, being part of a faith community, and how to be a religious person in the wider world. The program culminates in a ceremony, a rite of passage, where each youth presents a statement about his/her values, beliefs, hopes and experiences. 2nd and 4th Sundays: 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Bridging (12th grade)

The Bridging Program leads to a ceremony for those who are ready to assume the challenges of adulthood. Two Sunday evenings in April