

*The North Parish of North Andover, Unitarian Universalist*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Sunday morning Children's/Junior Youth Religious Education Programming

*What is the goal of Unitarian Universalist children's/youth religious education?*

Our goal is to help children and youth acquire a spiritual and religious "tool kit" that will enable them to say "yes!" to all that life has to offer: its wonders and joys, challenges and sorrows. We share with children wisdom from many sources and to help them relate that wisdom to their own life stories. We help them connect to an intergenerational community where they are known and cherished. We empower children and youth to carry their faith into the world through social justice projects and through the way they live their daily lives.

*What is the "content" of Sunday morning religious education?*

Wisdom stories used in worship and reflection are drawn from the six sources of our Unitarian Universalist living tradition: direct experience with transcending mystery and wonder, Jewish and Christian scriptures; wisdom from the world's religions; words and deeds of prophetic women and men; human reason; and spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions.

*What do children/junior youth do during Sunday morning programming?*

We provide nursery care for children through age three. Children in prekindergarten and kindergarten meet in small classes where they explore holidays and church traditions, as well as learning values like kindness, caring for the earth, and gratitude. Children and junior youth in grades one through eight attend a half-hour worship service based on a wisdom story, then move into age-specific small groups where they get to know one another, reflect on the story, do art, music, role-playing and game activities, and work together on service projects.

*Do Unitarian Universalists teach children about all religions so that children can later "choose" their own path?*

We explore with children wisdom from the world's religions and traditions, but the path we teach is a Unitarian Universalist path.

*How do I get my child involved in the program? What if I'm not sure yet?*

Registration forms and brochures are available in the parish hall during coffee hour or by calling the church (978-687-7948) or e-mailing [dre@northparish.org](mailto:dre@northparish.org). You and your child are welcome to visit once or twice before registering if you are unsure. Some parents and children attend children's worship together even after registering as they get to know the North Parish. Along with a form and a program permission slip, families are asked to pay a \$60/child registration fee, to a maximum of \$120/family (waivers available.)

*What is expected of families when their children/youth are part of the program?*

The North Parish Religious Education program is a cooperative program. During the first year, we expect parents to occasionally assist in special programming. After a year, we expect parents to co-lead a Sunday morning small group for one nine-week term.

*For further information, please contact Director of Religious Education Gail Forsyth-Vail at 978-687-7948 or [dre@northparish.org](mailto:dre@northparish.org). OR visit the Religious Education Committee information table in the parish hall during coffee hour.*