

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church

Religious Education

Prospectus
2009-2010

“What in the World?”



Exploring Religions of the World

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church

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Welcome to Heritage

My husband and I began attending Heritage soon after we were married, but before we had children. We were “church shopping,” looking for a liberal community where we could someday raise our children. The moment we walked into Heritage, we felt at home. To me, Heritage Church is all about community. We are here together building a foundation in which our children can solidly stand in the changing world around us.

As parents, we are searching for a place to ground our family in positive beliefs and values. We hope to instill tolerance, respect, and kindness. At Heritage, we strive to provide our children with a safe place to explore their own ideas and discover what they believe to be true. We encourage questions and thinking outside the box. There aren’t right and wrong answers when it comes to exploring their own beliefs. We want to help you lay the groundwork for a healthy and happy life for your children by instilling Unitarian Universalist principles.

You are your children’s primary spiritual educators. We are here to support your family in that learning and exploring. We are always open to feedback and are continually looking for ways to improve our program. Feel free to go to our website to the RE section and follow the feedback link to offer any thoughts or ideas.

www.huuc.net/education_files/rechildren.htm

I’m looking forward to walking the many paths of learning and exploring together.

~Hollie Johnson, DRE

Children's Religious Education Mission

The mission of the Religious Education Committee is *to provide a strong Unitarian Universalist foundation in which to nurture and support the diverse religious journeys of our children and youth.*



Stained Glass by Chris Burdette

Unitarian Universalist principles for Young people can be found in the colors of the RAINBOW R.O.Y.G.B.I.V

Respect people

Offer fair and kind treatment to all people

Yearn to accept and learn about ourselves, others and the mystery of God

Grow by exploring what is right and true

Believe in our ideas and act upon them

Insist of a peaceful, fair and free world

Value our home, earth that we share with all living beings

Do you know...

The Story of the Chalice?

During WWII, the Unitarian Service Committee became involved in running a secretive network of homes and institutions similar to the Underground Railroad, in this case assisting Jews and others who were fleeing the Nazi occupation in Europe. The design of chalice with the flame of freedom burning inside was used in aiding the escape of the countless refugees from Nazi oppression. Safe houses were marked by chalices scratched in the dirt. This symbol was understood to be trustworthy and safe. We can take pride in the fact that countless lives were saved by the use of this distinctive code. It simply means a safe place. As time went by, Unitarians merged with Universalists and two circles around the flame represents the two religions uniting together offering a welcoming home to all people for a safe place to worship.

(taken from a sermon by Rev. Bill Gupton)

The R.E. Leadership Team

The Children's Religious Education Committee supports the program through planning and implementing many of the various things that keep the program running. This leadership team is made up of members of the congregation who make every effort to be responsive to the needs, wishes and dreams of the children and adults in our congregation. The committee establishes the vision, goals, and policies of the RE program. Each committee member is responsible for a portfolio or job.

We need YOUR help to keep the RE program thriving. Please contact a member of the committee or DRE to ask how you can help make a difference.

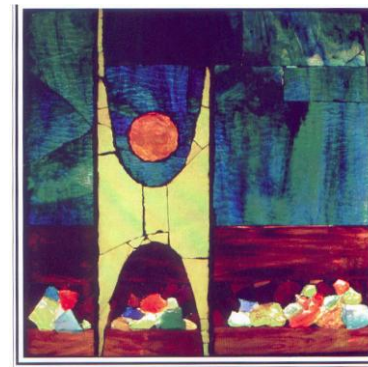
To Help Your Child Benefit the Most From Their Church Experience, Consider . . .

- Registration is required for every child, every year. There are registration forms in each classroom for new children. Returning children have forms that need to be checked and updated. Check the website for online registration forms for convenience and to save paper!
www.huuc.net/education_files/rechildren.htm
- Check the www.huuc.net website for up to date RE information. Also, make sure you are signed up to receive our email reminders through the RE church list serve.
- It's important to be as consistent as possible in attendance. Familiarity is basic to a sense of belonging and ownership. A child's comfort level and relationship to the community is based on attendance
- Your volunteer time in their classes is important. Your presence demonstrates that you feel R.E. is worthwhile, perhaps the most lasting and valuable message your children could receive.
- Provide continuity by incorporating some of our ritual forms into your home life. Meal times and bed times are often ritual in nature. A chalice or sharing candle, grace or reflection or even a song could be helpful ways to foster a sense of spirituality and build a bridge between Sundays.
- Help your child to remember to bring an offering each Sunday to meet our monthly commitment to Dominic Balingbing, a boy from the Philippines. Through the Children's International Program, the children support Dominic with their weekly offerings.

Sunday Morning Worship

Worship: The word comes from the same root as our term "worth." We worship whenever we ascribe worth to some person, event, concept, or power. We worship whenever we experience a sense of awe, mystery, and wonder – whenever we respond to life with gratitude or new commitment, or whenever we attempt to shape the experiences of worth we have had in the past.

~Fredrick E. Gillis



Stained glass by Arthur Harshman

We provide several opportunities for worship in the RE program. We are working toward embracing the children in our worship community through intentional intergenerational services as well as offer opportunities to worship as an RE community. Most Sundays, the preschoolers, Jr. High and Youth group begin in respective classrooms. Children in Kindergarten through fifth grade begin worship service in the sanctuary. The third Sunday of the month, also known as Potluck Sunday, includes an opportunity to participate in the opening and the Time for All Ages. The Time for All Ages generally carries the message of the service to the children in a language they can understand. We do this through children's books, stories, etc. Children then go to classes.

Nursery

Birth ~ Three

We believe Religious Education starts from day one. Babies and toddlers learn through play. Our nursery offers a safe, fun, and social environment for our youngest children to play, listen to music, dance, crawl, color, look at books, interact with each other, etc. A changing table is provided in the nursery as well as a rocking chair for nursing moms.

There are two paid nursery attendants in the nursery every Sunday. The nursery hours are from 9am until 12pm.

We ask that the parent dropping a child off in the nursery signs the child in and washes hands in order to keep from spreading illness.

Preschool

3 & 4 year olds

Heart Talk for Kids

We believe social interaction and play is part of our learning community at Heritage. Our preschool room opens at 10:30 for free play during the beginning of the adult service. The kids then do age, engaging lessons.



Our 3 and 4 year olds

will be exploring the activities in a program called, '**Heart Talk for Kids.**' The purpose of this curriculum is to teach respectful communication with each other. It emphasizes movement, activities, crafts, songs, games and time spent in nature. The take home message for the Preschoolers is that "Heart Talk" is fun!

Workshop Rotation

Kindergarten – 5th grade

This year we are kicking off our second year of Workshop Rotations. The basic idea of Workshop Rotation is that Sunday School focuses for several weeks on a single idea. There are a number of hands-on workshops and children rotate each week. An adult guide travels with each group as they go to a new workshop with a different teacher.

“What in the World?”

“The living tradition which we share draws from many sources... Wisdom from the worlds’ religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life.”

~ from the Unitarian Universalist bylaws

“One truth, many truths; one God, many faiths; on light, many windows.”

~ Forrest Church, “A Chosen Faith”

Unitarian Universalism teaches us that there is some wisdom to be found in all the great religions of the world. These lessons are designed to use a child’s curiosity flavored with stories, art, drama and song to introduce our youngest UU’s to the many truths and many faiths that richly color our earth and enrich our lives. Volunteer to teach and find yourself learning many of the rich traditions these religions have to offer!

Session 1 Christianity

Session 2 Islam

Session 3 Hinduism

Session 4 Buddhism

Session 5 Earth –Centered Religions

Session 6 Judaism

Session 7 Traditional Chinese Religions

Session 8 Spiritual Practices

Jr. High Youth Group

Neighboring Faiths: Exploring World Religions with Junior High Youth

As UU’s we promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We are called to draw upon the wisdom from the world’s religions to inspire us in our spiritual life. Basically, we need to learn about other faith traditions in order to be open and understanding of other people. We believe there are many paths each of us can choose to follow; therefore, we owe it to ourselves to learn about the different paths.

This curriculum offers flexible sessions to explore history and development of different faith traditions. The youth plan their own program by choosing which religious groups to learn about, visit and relate to their own growing faith. This will include visiting other faiths, creating worship experiences and more.



One World, Many Faiths

**High School Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)
2007-2008**

The High School youth group provides opportunities for high school teens to engage in community building, leadership, and learning opportunities through avenues of worship, friendship, food, music, games and social outreach/action projects.

Meeting times: Usually the first and third Sunday mornings of the month (10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.) Other times, as announced, for movies, social action projects, fun, planning, and district youth conferences.

For the most current activity schedule, please visit the HUUC website, click on education and go to Youth Group:
www.huuc.net

For the most up to date information about the High School overnight conferences visit:

www.heartlanduu.org/yruu_calendar.html

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact:
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**Heritage
Universalist Unitarian Church**

**Learning and Respecting
the
Many Paths on this Earth
Followed by People of Faith**



**Our Religious Education
Curriculum reflects our ideals,
beliefs and values.**

Join Us!

A warm welcome awaits you!



Stained glass by Donna Hamilton