

Religious Education Program for 2017-2018

Janise Rennie, Director of Religious Education

DRE office hours: Tuesday, Sunday 1-3pm or by appointment

Welcome to our Religious Education Program for the 2017-2018 school year. The Parent Handbook describes RE programs, activities, and our policies and procedures. Here you will also learn how you can become involved in the RE program. ***Our program depends on the effort of our parents and youth sharing their time in this wonderful ministry!***

RE Program Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for children and youth through creative exploration of the Unitarian Universalist principles and sources.

Our Goals:

- To nurture compassion and critical thinking
- To instill a passion for social action
- To create community among children, parents, and congregation

Curriculum and Schedule

Religious Education classes run throughout the year. Educational programming begins in Sept through May at 11:00am service. Childcare is provided for infants-3yr in the nursery for both 9 and 11 am service. During the summer months, RE provides less-structured summer fun activities. Children look forward to UU Camp in the Winter and Summer at Camp de Benneville Pines located in Angelus Oaks, CA by Big Bear Lake.

Our activities vary by week according to the following monthly schedule:

- **First - Third Sundays:** RE Classes (curriculum details below).
- **Third Sunday:** Classes could include a guest speaker, a *hike in the park, a *field trip.
- **Fourth Sunday:** Play day! Games, art, dance, music, songs, cooking, park.
- **Fifth Sunday:** Intergenerational Service (Children remain in the sanctuary for this family-friendly service) or RE provides a program.

**Parents will be informed any time a plan is made to leave the premise during RE. A signed permission slip must be on file or the child will not be allowed to join the class.*

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Curriculum Information

Infant – PreK	Nursery program includes socialization, sensory play, stories, songs, free play! PreK will add artwork, caring for our friends and our planet.
K – 3 rd	Anti-bias program built from Teaching Tolerance: Different Colors of Beauty. The program will turn to Social Justice.
4 – 7 th	Anti-bias program built from Teaching Tolerance: Different Colors of Beauty. This group will go further in depth with questions regarding race and ethnicity. The program will work with our Social Justice circle within the congregation.
8– 10 th	The Lodestone is a program that covers four units: UU Identity, Money, Holidays, and Death. Parent involvement needed.

Special Sunday Services 2017-2018 (No RE classes):

August 28	Teachers Dedication, Teacher Meeting, Children Play!
November 12	Children’s Dedication
December 24	Intergenerational Christmas program
April 16	Intergenerational Easter program, egg hunt to follow service!
June 11	RE Service – Teacher’s Appreciation

Rev. Richards is on sabbatical until Oct. 1 Please note there may be updates to this list.

Religious Education Social Events:

Sept. 9	Parent Potluck and meeting, child care provided. Future meetings to be determined.
Sept. 10	Ice Cream Social – the entire Congregation enjoys ice cream provided by the RE program.
Oct. 22	Multigenerational Service Project – Scarves for Prado
Nov. 12	Muffins and Tea after Child Dedication
Dec. 2	Craft Fair! Decorate our tree! All congregation, potluck.
Jan. 26-27	RE Glow in The Dark Party (All RE), sleepover 4-10 th graders. Potluck. Waffle breakfast.
Feb 4 – March 4	Tentative date for Puzzle Pals
June TBA	RE Beach day
August (TBA)	UU Family Campout.

Other activities and events may be scheduled over the course of the year.

Volunteer Commitment and Opportunities in Religious Education

Volunteer Commitment

The RE program at UUSLO are successful due to the commitment of parents and volunteers. Typically, a rotation of 1 or 2 Sundays a month will fulfill our volunteer needs. Teaching is not for everyone however there are lots of opportunities to volunteer, see list below.

We are a cooperative program directed by Janise Rennie, DRE and the Religious Education Committee. There is no registration fee for RE. We are supported by our congregation through the fellowship budget. Your pledges and gifts to the congregation, as well as participation in fundraisers such as the Silent Auction, special dinners, and concerts are what make our programs possible. Your financial support to the congregation will keep our programs alive and growing.

Volunteers can join in RE in many ways: *(ask me about these positions!)*

Join a Teaching Team	Help with RE Socials	Provide Supplies
Story for All Ages	Help with a Play	Join RE Committee
Assist Chalice Lighting	Help with Craft Fair	Share your Talents
Volunteer in the Nursery	Help with Special Projects	Be a family Greeter

After 6 months in the program you are welcomed to come to the Religious Education Committee meeting. Together we plan curriculum, RE services, field trips, guest speakers, service projects, arts and crafts, and more. If you have questions, ideas, or comments this is the place to make your voice heard.

This year it would be helpful if parents could bring an old shirt for their child(ren) to use for art class. A mid to long sleeve pull over or button down that is slightly large with your child's name on the inside would be perfect. If you had an extra shirt to donate that would be handy for occasional visitors.

RE Policies and Procedures

Registration

All children must have a registration form on file. Forms are available from the RE director, RE instructor, or our UU website.

All children participating in Park day must have a permission form on file. Special excursions will require permission slips specific to that excursion.

Parents/guardians are required to remain on-site during the service. We are not a drop-off program.

Sunday Snack

Snack is not a regular part of the RE program unless there is a special occasion. When we do have a snack offered as a group we try to stick to healthy snacks with occasional sweet treats.

Safe Child, Ouch Reports and Sick Child Policy

Safe Child

Our congregation follows a safe congregation policy - safety for all. With that in mind you can expect the following safety policies for your child(ren):

- Two leaders per classroom
- Megan's Law check for all RE staff, volunteers (teachers/assistants) and Youth advisors
- Code of Ethics Agreement for all RE volunteers
- Classroom Behavior Guidelines and teacher training
- Each classroom will develop a Covenant of expectations
- Each volunteer in the program assumes a role as a mandated reporter under the California law

Ouch Reports

If your child is hurt during class a teacher will fill out an incident report. We will report to the parent any incidents that occur during RE. If a child is in need of medical attention during RE the parent will be notified immediately. First aid will be applied as needed and call 911 if needed. An incident report will be made and copied to parent, church staff, and board as required by our safe policy.

Sick Child Policy

If your child is sick, please keep your child home. All of us must protect the health and wellbeing of our church community. If your child becomes sick during class time we will attempt to text you, or come get you from the service.

When to keep your child home:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees (or higher) in the previous 24 hours
- Difficulty breathing and/or severe coughing
- Abnormally loose stool in the previous 24 hours
- Vomiting within the previous 24 hours
- Mucus draining from eyes (pink eye), or nose
- Any contagious condition: i.e., head lice, chicken pox, flu, etc.

Nursery

We ask parents who have children in the nursery: If you are new to the nursery you may want to sit toward the back of the sanctuary just in case you want to pop out of the service to check on your little one. I will text you if there is a problem with your child. We never allow a child to "cry it out." Our policy is if a child is crying after many

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attempts from the child care provider and DRE to sooth your child we will text you. You will need to exit the sanctuary as quietly as possible preferably not during a meditation but as soon as you can.

Any Questions? Contact Janise Rennie Director of Religious Ed (805) 439-0188

Religious Education Behavior Guidelines

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Based on Our Seven Principles

This was developed by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas.

We believe that each person is important.

- Safety first!
- Children must remain in designated area until parent pick up.
- Only gentle play in appropriate.
- Everyone matters. Use caring language and behavior.

We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

- Listen and follow directions.
- Be polite. Take turns.
- Care about one another.

We believe that we should accept one another and keep learning together.

- Make a commitment to regular attendance. Your friends and teachers depend upon you!
- Include everyone in activities and planning.
- Friends are welcome.

We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

- Share your ideas and remember to respect the ideas of others.
- Not everyone will agree with you and that's okay.

We believe that all persons should have the right to speak out and have a vote about what concerns them.

- Express your opinions constructively. It is OK to disagree with another person's ideas, but don't criticize the person or make fun.
- Respect the decision of the group.

We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world.

- Ask for help when you need it.
- Do your best to get along with others and to be helpful.
- Be willing to listen to reminders about behavior, yours or others.
- Do your best to participate in church social action projects.

We believe in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things.

- Be careful with our space, furniture and materials
- Use only what you need. Recycle.
- Be gentle with the plants and animals on our church grounds.