

# Children's Religious Growth and Learning, 2011-12

Submitted by Trish Brandon, Director of Religious Growth and Learning

Welcome to an exciting new church year!

As we adapt to new times and places, flexibility and patience will be my mantra. As we all find what works best for us as to when and where, we will likely be reminded that change can be both upsetting and invigorating. Our beloved community is anything but stagnant! Regardless of when and where you end up, I know that participants will enjoy a rich and meaningful religious growth and learning experience.

So please pay attention, engage in church life and let its transformational power do its work in your life and the lives of your loved ones

In faith and love,

Trish

## Logistics

Nursery care (infant – age 3) is available 15 minutes before the service and continues for 20 minutes after the service. Please take your child directly to the nursery. For older children, to start the year, they should go directly to the service and sit with their family. They should leave with the RGL leaders after opening rituals if participating in the children's program. A responsible adult should pick-up children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger from their meeting room at 15 minutes after the hour.

First time visitors and guests are encouraged to arrive early and go to the room to meet the leaders, see the space, and hear about the plans for the morning. If new participants do not have an opportunity to do this before the session, an adult should escort their children to their rooms after the opening rituals. One of the leaders will talk to the adult visitor briefly and in more detail after the session. Leaders need to know of allergies and special needs of guests so it is important for an adult to check in with leaders of a child visiting for the first time.

### 9:00 a.m. Service, Clover Lane

| GRADE   | ROOM          | TEAM COORDINATOR     | NOTES  |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Nursery | Olympia Brown | Varies               | Nursery open from 8:45 to 20 minutes after service ends  |
| PK – K  | Beatrix       | Jessica Chuckalovcak | Curriculum: UU Identity We Are Many, We Are One  |
| 1 – 4   | Priestley     | Kathy Malarich       | Themes: September, <i>Welcome!</i> October <i>Lessons of Loss</i> , November – May: UU Identity Curriculum |

### Coffee hour:

Parents are responsible for their children during coffee hours; church staff do not provide supervision indoors or out. The Alcott Room has games available, if desired. Please make sure your children clean up after themselves.

### 11:00 a.m. Service, Market Street

| GRADE      | AGE          | ROOM            | LOCATION  | TEAM COORDINATOR                      |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Nursery    | Infant-age 3 | Williams        | Same as always: out the side door of sanctuary, down a few steps, first door on the right | Varies                                |
| PK – K – 1 | 4 ~ 7        |                 | L rear of sanctuary   | Kate Newtown                          |
| 2 – 4      | 8 ~ 10       | Jordan & Harper | Out corridor from Fellowship Hall, Jordan is first room on the R                          | Jane Bechtel ,<br>Wanda Abou El Nagga |
| 5 – 8      | 11 ~ 13      | Outreach        | Out corridor from Fellowship Hall, immediate L  | Tracy Richards                        |
| 8 – 9      | 13 ~ 14      | Latimer         | Exit left, facing the kitchen   | Brad Bechtel, Dianne Dusman           |
| 9 – 12     | 14 ~ 18      | Eaton           | L exit from sanctuary, down half flight, turn R, walk halfway down the corridor; turn R   | Wendy Shaver                          |

### Coffee hour:

Parents are responsible for their children during coffee hours; church staff do not provide supervision indoors or out. Children may use the stage area in the Fellowship Hall as a play area for indoor games. Please make sure your children clean up after themselves.

## Curriculum

|               |                                 | CURRICULUM TOPICS BY MONTH                      |                 |  |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| SITE          | GRADE                           | SEP   | OCT             | NOV  | DEC | JAN | FEB                      | MAR | APR | MAY |  |  |
| Clover Lane   | PK – K                          | UU Identity Curriculum: We Are Many, We Are One |                 |  |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
|               | 1 – 4                           | Welcome!  | Lessons of Loss | Identity Curriculum - "Moral Tales"                              |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
| Market Street | PK – 1                          |   |                 | Identity Curriculum - "Love Surrounds Us"                        |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
|               | 2 – 4                           |   |                 | Identity Curriculum - "Moral Tales"                              |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
|               | 5 - 8                           |   |                 | Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong                         |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
|               | 8 – 9                           |   |                 | Our Whole Lives Sexuality Program (registration closes Sept. 30) |     |     |                          |     |     |     |  |  |
| 9 – 12        | Small groups, individual topics |   |                 | Interfaith Connections   |     |     | Poverty, Appalachia, TBD |     |     |     |  |  |

### Lessons of Loss

This program helps participants understand loss in general, and death and grieving in particular. From an early age we all experience emotions from losses related to friends, illness or injury, divorce and transitions. Talking about it in a caring atmosphere helps participants recognize, understand and deal with their emotions when they face loss. This series of three classes has been well received in the past and is offered in age-appropriate ways for all ages every three years.

### Moral Tales

Provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. By Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann and Elisa Davy Pearmain

| Session Topics:   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1: We Are All One<br>2: Conscience: Hearing The Inner Voice<br>3: Faith, Hope and Prayer<br>4: In Another's Shoes<br>5: Forgiveness<br>6: Welcome One and All | 7: Seeing Others with Awe<br>8: Do unto Others<br>9: Generosity: Give and Ye Shall Receive<br>10: Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth<br>11: Do No Harm | 12: Making a Difference<br>13: Justice for All<br>14: Courage<br>15: Courage and Perseverance<br>16: Working Together |

### Love Surrounds Us

This program explores all the Principles in the context of Beloved Community of family/home, school, neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community. By Rev. Lynn Kerr and Christy Olson

| Session Topics:   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1: Love Surrounds Us<br>2: Love Surrounds Us Sharing<br>3: New Friends<br>4: Forgiveness<br>5: Love Surrounds Us Without Boundaries | 6: Acceptance<br>7: Love Surrounds Us in Ritual<br>8: Love Surrounds Us in Our History<br>9: Love Surrounds Us in Our Search<br>10: Our Words Matter | 11: Hear Our Voices<br>12: A Peaceful and Fair World<br>13: Peaceful Choices<br>14: Love Surrounds Us in Nature<br>15: Caring for the Earth<br>16: Our UU Principles |

### Amazing Grace

This program guides sixth graders through ways to determine right from wrong with a Unitarian Universalist perspective, and act on their new understandings. By Richard S. Kimball

| Session Topics:  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1: Introducing Amazing Grace<br>2: Curious Faith<br>3: Being Good, Being Bad<br>4: Telling Right From Wrong<br>5: Unitarian Universalism | 6: The First U<br>7: The Second U<br>8: UUs In Action<br>9: Spirituality And Me<br>10: Right And Wrong Together | 11: Rules, Rules, Rules<br>12: Human And Divine<br>13: Bad Guys, Good Guys<br>14: Doing Your Good Side<br>15: Saving The World<br>16: Look At Me, World |

### Our Whole Lives Sexuality (Closed to new participants after Sept. registration)

Our Whole Lives, or OWL, is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum. 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. It is taught with a religious supplement which includes UU values. Supporting parents in their role as primary sexuality educators and helping them reinforce or establish healthy communication on the topic of sexuality is a primary objective of the OWL program.

The yearlong OWL program is offered to youth in grades 8 and 9 this year. Dianne Dusman and Brad Bechtel are the primary leaders of the course. Both are experienced OWL leaders as well as parents and Unitarian Universalists. Please join me in expressing appreciation for their time commitment to our children as leaders of OWL.