



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT MONTCLAIR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2017/2018 PROGRAM CURRICULUM & CLASSES GUIDE

## About The Program:

Our Sunday morning R.E Program is a cooperative volunteer effort, guided by a Director of Religious Education, RE Program Coordinator Iris DeLaPaz and the RE Committee, with these goals for each student:

- *Nurture the individual spirit within our loving community*
- *Understand that we are part of Unitarian Universalist heritage; past, present, and future*
- *Cultivate curiosity about, appreciation for and engagement with all faith traditions*
- *Developing lifelong practice of service*
- *Encouraging mindfulness and a sense of wonder*

## CLASSES & CURRICULA

(All classes are at 9:00 & 11:00 unless otherwise noted)

### Nursery/Toddlers (six months – 3 years)

We provide childcare and guided playtime for our youngest members and visitors.

### PreK (Ages 3-4½ ) (11:00 a.m) *Belonging in my UU Home*

**WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE:** cooperative play and expression of children’s feelings and beliefs are developed through topics such as “UU stories/ UU Ways,” “Nature’s Gifts/Nature Needs Our Care,” “We Are Alike/We Are Different,” and “We Learn From Others/We Celebrate Life.”

### Kindergarten-First Grade *Building Loving Connections*

#### **LOVE SURROUNDS US & WORLD OF WONDER**

**Love Surrounds Us** explores the 7 UU Principles in the context of Beloved Community of family/home, school, neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.

**World of Wonder** delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist seventh Principle. It instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development

**Second -Third Grade** *Growing U.U Love & Justice*

**FAITHFUL JOURNEYS & LOVE WILL GUIDE US**

The year begins with **Faithful Journeys**, a newer U.U curriculum that provides children with language and experiences to develop a U.U faith identity through historic and contemporary stories of U.U faith in action.

In the second half of the year, **Love Will Guide Us** participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love.

**Fourth - Fifth Grade** *Empowering U.U Faith & Justice*

**SING TO THE POWER and Our Whole Lives (OWL)**

**Sing to the Power** affirms our Unitarian Universalist heritage of confronting “powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Participants experience their own power, and understand how it can help them to be leaders.

**OWL**, is an age-appropriate sexuality education curriculum, will be offered March-June (requires parent orientation).

**Sixth - Seventh Grade** *Exploring Beliefs, Discovering Our Voice*

**NEIGHBORING FAITHS:** This class offers opportunities to learn and grow in an understanding of religious pluralism. Field trips to other houses of worship are highlights of the curriculum.

**Eighth Grade** (9:00 a.m) *Awakening Empathy & Respect Together*

**HEEDING THE CALL: QUALITIES OF A JUSTICE MAKER:** Youth are encouraged to view themselves as agents of change in the world as they develop qualities crucial to justice work. They reflect on their own lives while making connections to the lives lived by others, building self-awareness while growing as leaders.

**OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)** (December-June) The OWL program, based on a comprehensive approach to sexuality education, helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information. A parent orientation is required before a youth can participate.

**Ninth Grade** (11:00 a.m.) *Claiming & Articulating U.U Identity*

**COMING OF AGE (COA)** As youth anticipate Coming of Age, they learn about Unitarian Universalism through in-class, hands-on activities and field trips. COA is the UU rite of passage for youth, similar to “confirmation” in other faiths. It stresses individual responsibility in answering some of life’s largest questions about religious identity, being part of a faith community, and one’s place in the larger world. Each will create a statement of faith to be shared with the congregation in a special Sunday service in May.

**SENIOR YOUTH** (10:30 a.m) *Creating U.U Community & Experiencing the World*

(Grades 10-12) This program serves as a support fellowship for the Senior Youth members of the UUCM. Topics for discussion are chosen by the group’s membership. Advisors help to ensure a safe space for youth to share from a deeper place in themselves. A variety of social and service events are scheduled throughout the year.