



UUCM Religious Education Curriculum 2016/2017

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
67 Church St., Montclair, NJ 07042 9737446276**

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

**Rev. Judy Tomlinson, ext. 16; judyatomlinson@gmail.com
Iris E DeLaPaz, Ext 23, recoord@uumontclair.org**

Unless otherwise specified, classes are offered September through June, during both the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Schedule changes are announced in the newsletter, email blasts and on the website.

Nursery/Toddlers
(Six months – 3 years)

Child care and guided playtime for our youngest members and visitors is provided during every service throughout the year.

Celebrating Me and My World
(Pre-K: 3.5-4.5 Years)

LOCATION: Basement, Susan B. Anthony Room

Celebrating Me and My World gives pre-schoolers an opportunity to grow in their sense of trust and caring and to develop their self-identity and their sense of connectedness with all of life. The goals of this program include helping children to develop a positive self-image, to develop cooperative social skills and to be able to express themselves.

CREATING HOME & WONDERFUL WELCOME:
(K/1st Grade)

LOCATION: Basement, William Ellery Channing

Creating Home helps children develop a sense of home and belonging in our UU congregation that is grounded in faith. Creating Home uses wisdom tales from many religious traditions and includes fun activities, humor and play.

Wonderful Welcome. This curriculum engages and challenges leaders and children alike to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. The goals are for the children to expand their understanding of their relationships with others, create opportunities for children to identify and practice a wide variety of welcoming behaviors and develop children's sense of belonging, introduce practices of stewardship; create a shared atmosphere of reverence, awe, gratitude and wonder.

MORAL TALES & TIMELESS THEMES
(2ND/3rd Grades)

LOCATION: Annex Purple Room

The *Moral Tales* curriculum has three themes, looking for truth and justice, to act with love in relationships with each other and the earth, and to bring goodness and justice into the world. Participants will begin to build a personal moral compass. Their exploration of goodness and justice will ground participants in UU ethical beliefs, moral values and spiritual practices that cannot only transform the individual, but the world as well.

Timeless Themes introduces children to the classic Hebrew and Christian stories with the enduring themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbors and forgiveness. The goals for the participants are to become familiar with some of the best-known stories in biblical literature, to feel connected with the ancient writers by exploring such universal human themes as jealousy, forgiveness and healing, and to develop UU values by analyzing and discussing biblical issues.

BIBLEODEON
(4TH/5TH Grades)

LOCATION: Mortenson Room

Bibleodeon introduces our youth to Hebrew and Christian scriptures by presenting the best-known stories from these traditions with engaging and interactive lesson. The goals are for the children to become familiar with a range of well-known Bible stories, know how to find their way around the Bible, and have a basic understanding of the Bible's history and power.

Neighboring Faiths and Compass Points (6TH/7TH Grades)

LOCATION: Annex basement: Sub-Peierls

Neighboring Faiths and Compass Points are one of our most popular classes that embodies the spirit of all 7 principles from the 1 st – The inherent worth and dignity of every person to the 7 th – Respect for the interdependent web of which we are all a part. This class offers opportunities to learn and grow in an understanding of religious pluralism. Students ask questions and strengthen their faith through understanding themselves. Field trips to other houses of worship are highlights of the curriculum. The goals while visiting other houses of worship are for the youth to not simply go as observers but to experience the spirituality of that religion, to share experiences, ideas and beliefs with their hosts, to reflect on the unique and universal religious experiences and to explore their own values and beliefs.

HEEDING THE CALL (September - December) And Our Whole Lives (December - June) (8th grade, 9:00)

LOCATION: Peierls Room

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. The goals of this program are for the youth to identify qualities needed to create justice; explore social justice as individual and collective acts of our spiritual journey; demonstrate how to engage in social justice work; learn about the social justice action of Unitarian Universalists; and provide youth with tools they can use in their own justice work.

Our Whole Lives(OWL) In December the 8th grade OWL program begins. At this level, OWL, 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.

Coming of Age (9th Grade, 11:00)

LOCATION: Peierls Room

is the Unitarian Universalist rite of passage for youth, similar to “confirmation” in other faiths. Coming of Age stresses the importance of individual responsibility in answering, for oneself, 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. 10th. There will be four, once-per-month, group ministry sessions for parents that accompany the program.

Senior Youth Group (10th -12th Grades, 10:30 – 12:00) LOCATION: Samantha Smith Room

Our Youth Group is service and socially oriented active group around the congregation and the community. Our youth develop worship, plan service and social activities that often involve the wider UUCM community and committees. This past year they developed an awareness campaign about homelessness and attended several youth events in the denomination as well as helping out with multigenerational programming. The goal of this program is youth empowerment within the context of a supportive and values-based religious community. As our youth become young adults we want their experiences in Sr. Youth to prepare them for a life-long connection with Unitarian Universalism.