

Our Principles

We affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH

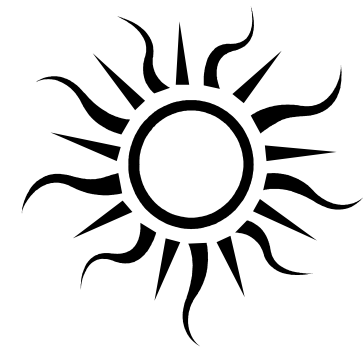
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Rev. Paul Beckel, Minister

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First Universalist Unitarian Church

Religious Education



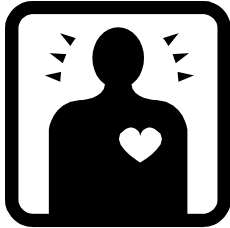
*Education is not the
filling of a bucket, but
the lighting of a fire.*

www.uuwausau.org

Religious Education at First UU Church 2006-2007

What can I do to help?

As a parent, you are your child's main source of religious education. Modeling excellent attendance, becoming involved with the RE Committee, volunteering to teach or assist in the classrooms, and discussing with your children their religious journey will help your children be happy and successful in our program. Our children and youth need you. Please see the DRE or minister for additional ideas on helping.



Why should I fill out an information sheet?

Filling out an RE Information Sheet helps us to stay in touch with parents and to contact you about future special events. The information form also helps us to identify any special needs your child may have. Filling out an information form is simple, and it takes about one minute. The sheet automatically signs you up to receive the weekly RE newsletter via e-mail (with a valid e-mail address). Please see the DRE or your child's classroom teacher for an information form.

What is my child studying?

Our youngest age group (children aged 2-5 years old) are basing their explorations of our UU principles on the *Storytime* curriculum. This curriculum provides an opportunity for your children to listen to a story, engage in discussions, make a craft or piece of art, and exercise their bodies by making music and/or dancing.

The 1st-3rd grades are studying *Our Origins of the Universe*, *Caring for Our Mother Earth*, and *Our Mother Earth: Experiences in Native American Spirituality*. This age group will be exploring the natural world and their relationship to it in terms of science, day-to-day stewardship, and spirituality.

The 4th-6th graders are learning about Buddhism, Islam, and Native American religions. Learning about world religions helps our students to make better decisions for themselves as they develop their spirituality. Broadening our children's religious views also helps our kids to be loving, empathetic, and accepting of all people.

The 7th-9th graders are viewing documentary films and then engaging in discussion. The films cover a wide range of topics: Human Rights, the Holocaust, and the Civil Rights Movement, to name just a few. The youth in this class are invited to think critically and to explore their relationship to the world that lies beyond the boundaries of their day-to-day existence.



The Details

This year, Religious Education classes are being held at the YWCA across the street from the church. For the duration of this church year, classes are offered for children aged 2 through grade 9 with at least two adult teachers in every classroom. Once construction is completed, classes will resume for children under 2 and above grade nine. In the meantime, parents are encouraged to bring their infants and high schoolers to services. There is a crying room for inconsolable infants (exit the front of the sanctuary and follow the signs). Babies and children under two are also welcome at the YWCA in the 2-5-year-olds' class *with a parent*.

Although parents are welcome in any classroom at any time, we have been asked to minimize disruptions at the YWCA (we are sharing the space with another church). We are using the east side door, which is coded and will have an attendant before church. After church, your children will be delivered to the back of the sanctuary. RE classes end at 11:30, although the 7th-9th grade class might return as late as noon.

There will be no snack served during our stay at the YWCA. Children are welcome to partake in the offerings at the glorified coffee hour after services in the sanctuary.

