

— Welcome —
to our
**Religious Education
Program!**

We offer our Religious Education (RE) Program each Sunday for our children. It is important to register your child(ren). This enables the teachers to get to know who their students are and to plan for their class sessions appropriately. Registration forms are available on the Welcome Table or from the Religious Education teachers.

Please be sure that we have your current address, phone number, and E-mail. Any changes should be sent by e-mailed to Liz Jones at liz@firstuusandiego.org, or handed in writing to the staff person present that Sunday.

Let us know if there is any special information we should have about your child, such as allergies or medical conditions that might affect how we plan our classes.

Sunday Mornings

Children's religious education (CRE) and nursery begin in the worship service. After the Children's Affirmation, the children are excused to go to the religious education (RE) classes with their teachers.

Nursery care ends at the end of the service. Please pick up your smaller children at that time. The RE class for older children concludes at 11:15. Please pick up your children at that time.



Notes

Our Mission

The mission of First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego is to create community, to nurture spiritual growth, and to act on our values to help heal the world.

Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay

Children's Religious Education Program Guide 2011-2012



Liz Jones
Director of Religious Education
and Family Ministry

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube
and Rev. Kathleen Owens
Ministers

First Unitarian Universalist Church
of San Diego
4190 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92103-2098
(619) 298-9978
Email: mail@firstuusandiego.org

Religious Education for Children

We believe that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Most children spend less than 52 hours a year in a Sunday school class, far less than they do at home with their families. So, we want our religious education to support the spiritual development that is occurring at home. Every other week, a *Taking It Home* document will be sent home with the students. This will include questions to ask your children, activities you can do together and further reading you can do.

In order to help families be intentional about their spiritual growth, First Church sends out an electronic document called Home Connection. (If you are unable to receive electronic communications, we can make arrangements to send these documents to you by mail.) Each Home Connection is based on the monthly worship theme. There will be words for chalice lighting, a story, story questions and activities for all ages, and further resources to help you continue your exploration of the theme. If you are not receiving this document, please contact the church office at 619-298-9978.

Our Sunday morning program will be using the curricula, *Love Surrounds Us*. This program continues our exploration of the Unitarian Universalist Principles through stories, activities, and social justice projects.

Parents are always welcome to visit in the Religious Education Classroom. Some children will be more comfortable if a parent has attended with them for a session or two. Children may choose to stay in the worship service with their parents. We encourage parents who feel their children might want to stay in the service to bring books and drawing supplies to keep their child occupied in case their child's attention begins to wander.



Abuse Prevention Policy

The church has adopted an Abuse Policy and a Code of Ethics for Religious Education leaders. The Children's Religious Education Ministry Team (CREMT) has established a number of guidelines relating to that policy and code, including in-service education for leaders on reporting procedures. For additional information consult CREMT members, or RE staff.



How can you help make this a successful program?

- **Volunteer to assist.** You can help in your child's class, or in another class. You can help the Children's Religious Education Ministry Team with its ongoing tasks and special events.
- **Become involved in the church as a whole.** Read the Newsletter, know what is going on, express your opinions, and get involved.
- **Make a financial pledge to the operating budget of the church** which supports our programs. We need your support for all the work of our church community.

Parent Involvement

Ours is a cooperative, volunteer-led Religious Education program. There are many ways in which you can be involved. **Families are expected to volunteer a minimum of five hours per church year.** Please check with the Religious Education Office or one of the Religious Education teachers to discover ways to be involved.

You can also assist in creating a meaningful program for your children by bringing them regularly, learning about the curriculum, getting to know their leaders, sharing your own interest in the church with them, and participating in special class- and all-church activities. After all, religious education takes place in the context of a family's total involvement in their chosen religious community.

Fees

Families with children or youth in our program are asked to either make a financial pledge to the church, or pay a program fee. The fee stands at \$100 per child/youth with a family maximum of \$300 for the year. Should this fee be a financial hardship for any family, a one-year waiver may be requested from either of our Ministers or the Director of Religious Education. Fees are automatically waived during the first church year in which your family participates in the program.



Worship

Worship is an important part of our Religious Education program. The communal aspect of worship is central to why we come here. This is a time for adults and children alike to share and learn from each other. It is an acknowledgment that we are all part of this religious community. Please arrive in time for you and your children to take part in worshipping together in the Meeting House and help them learn appropriate behavior for the worship service.