



## 2nd Hour Worship for Children and Youth

After gathering in the sanctuary for the first part of every service at 11:15, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade gather in Schweitzer Hall for community building, social action projects, spiritual play and worship. Barbara Stoddard, Interim DRE will lead the programming with the assistance of our "Guardian Angels." The focus of this time together will be more on the children/youth in the group and not on the content alone. We will experience beloved community by singing, dancing, creating, worshipping, acting on our values and playing together. Taking from the tradition of the Masai Warriors, we will ask ourselves, "How are the children?" We strive that all adults, parent and non-parent alike will be able to answer: "The children are well; yes, all the children are well."



## Special Youth Programming

**Eighth Grade  
11:15—12:30 Sundays**

**Coming of Age - September - May**

The Coming of Age (COA) Program is designed to teach our 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth more about Unitarian Universalism and to help them explore and articulate their own religious and spiritual beliefs. Our goal is to graduate committed, informed and engaged members of our Unitarian Universalist faith. The COA program is coordinated by the Religious Education department.

**7th, 8th, & 9th Grades—1:30—5:30 pm Sundays  
Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7th, 8th &**

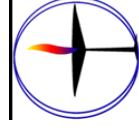
**9th Graders - Sept. —Feb.** This comprehensive sexuality education program offered to our 7th, 8th & 9th grade youth, highlights the necessity of wisdom as we seek healthy, loving, just relationships with ourselves and others. Trained leaders teach the class series. Emerson is hosting these sessions which will be attended by other UU youth in the Houston area.

**10th, 11th & 12th Grades—TBD—Begins in Jan.  
Our Whole Lives OWL) for 10th—12th**

Houston's First Unitarian Universalist Church will be hosting this course for our senior high youth beginning in January. Details will be available later in the fall.

**Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church  
Youth to host the Gulf Coast Youth Rally  
January 15—17, 2010**

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church and Emerson's Youth are hosting this upcoming youth rally and will be working with other Houston Area Youth and Adults in the planning of this amazing event.



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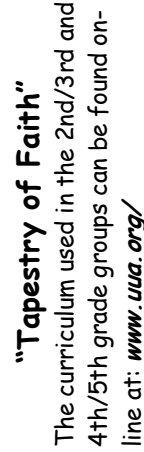
## Religious Education Programs for Children & Youth 2009—2010

Unitarian Universalists value asking questions and thinking a lot. You may have heard people call religious education "lifelong learning." That's because we believe people never stop learning from their experiences, and we believe that everyone can be changed by new ideas. What hope and promise this brings to the world!

—Betsy Hill Williams

Emerson Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
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[www.emersonhouston.org](http://www.emersonhouston.org)



## "Tapestry of Faith"

The curriculum used in the 2nd/3rd and 4th/5th grade groups can be found online at: [www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/](http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/)

[tapestryfaith/index.shtml](http://tapestryfaith/index.shtml). Check out these curriculum as well as other curriculum developed by the UUA for all ages.

From your...

### Interim Director of Religious Education

As your interim director, I will be helping the congregation discern a

vision of religious education programming. We will continue providing quality programming for our children and youth as we look toward the future.

We come together to explore and wonder. We come together to laugh, sing, dance, experience joy and compassion, to dream and to search for meaning and purpose in our daily lives. We come together in a community that honors questioning and diversity.

Come, join us as we question, dream, dance, and grow together in wisdom and love.

...*Barbara Gay Stoddard*



*If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.*

~Author Unknown

### Classes for Children & Youth

**Nursery and Toddler Care—10:00am—12:30pm.** Professionally trained caregivers provide childcare for our youngest children. We strive for a safe and happy environment. 10:00—birth up to age 3. 11:00—Care for children birth through age 4.

#### 10:00 Religious Education for Children & Youth



##### **Preschool (3s & 4s)—Chalice Children.**

The experiences and messages of this curriculum for our 3 & 4 year olds are intended to affirm spiritual growth, creativity, and connection to the congregation and the world through rituals, rhymes, chants, games, & stories. They will explore the forces of nature, the mystery of life, the beginning and ending of life, sickness, dreaming, playing, cooperation and friendship.

#### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

**10:00 am**

##### First Floor

Childcare for infants and toddlers (up to age 3)

Preschool class for 3 and 4 year olds

Kindergarten—1st grade class

2nd & 3rd Grade Class

4th & 5th Grade Class

##### Second Floor

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade class

9th—12 Grade class

Adult RE Classes

**11:15 am**

Childcare for infants—through age 4

Worship Service: Children K—5th grade attend

1st part of worship service & then meet in Room

108 for the 2nd Hour Gathering. **Note: Parents**

**can talk with the Interim DRE if they believe their 4**

**year old would benefit from this programming instead**

**of the childcare option.**

6th & 7th Grade—Jr. Youth Programming

8th Grade—Coming of Age Program

9th—12th Grade—Youth Group



### 4th & 5th Grade-Toolbox of Faith:

Toolbox of Faith invites fourth- and fifth-grade participants to reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight). **This group will use the curriculum "Windows & Mirrors" during the 2nd half of the year.**

### 6th, 7th & 8th Grade—You

#### **the Creator.**

The goal of The New You the Creator is creative empowerment; helping all participants discover themselves as creators and as one with positive and universal creative forces. The intention is to lead participants to new ideas and new experiences, but not to specific beliefs. The basic message of the course is that you the participant are, can be and should be one of the creative forces of the world. There are 10 themes that are examined: Religion & Creativity, Religion & Creative Arts, Arts & Creativity, Creativity & Self, Practical Creativity, Universal Creative Force, Creative Spirituality, Creating Community, Yes You Can, and Creativity for All.



### 2nd & 3rd Grade—Faithful Journeys.

Our children will embark on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices & everyday actions. Structured around the Unitarian Universalist Principles, Faithful Journeys demonstrates that our Principles are not a dogma, but a credo that individuals can affirm with many kinds of action. Children discover a unity of faith in the many different ways Unitarian Universalists, including themselves, can act on our beliefs. **This group will use the curriculum "Moral Tales during the 2nd half of the year.**



### Grades 9-12: Sr. Youth Group.

10-12:15—Sunday mornings. For the next 2 years this group's activities will consist of 1) a curriculum called Popcorn Theology, based on movies with interesting themes to discuss, 2) topical discussions/activities/presentations decided by the youth at the start of each year, and 3) planning activities, worship opportunities and community building activities.