

The Unitarian Church of Barnstable
Unitarian Universalist

Religious Exploration Program

2011-2012

Making This Program Work For Your Family

Attendance matters! Consistent participation helps create a sense of community.

We welcome guests and drop-ins. We have an information desk outside the DRE office.

Stay in touch with the teachers, DRE, and the curriculum.

Ask your child what he or she is experiencing.

Share your beliefs with your child.

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate.

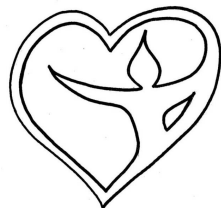
Registration

PLEASE NOTE A REGISTRATION FORM IS
ENCLOSED HEREWITH.

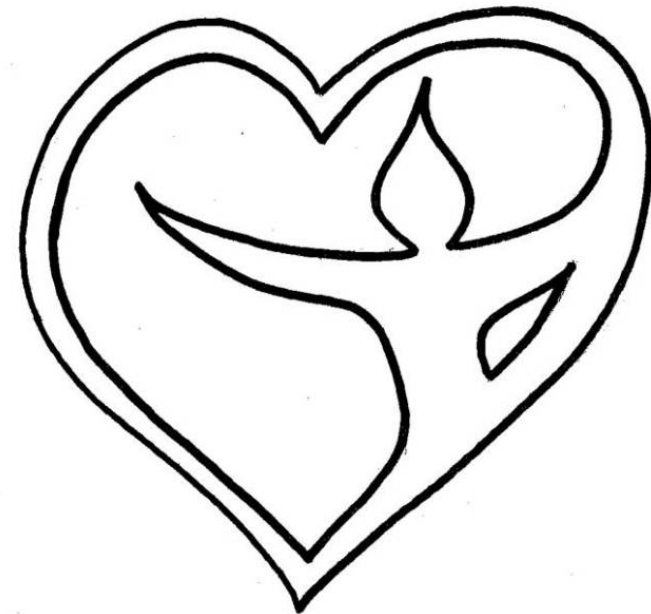
All children must be registered by a parent or guardian. Please turn the form in to the RE office in the Children and Youth Center downstairs, or to Candee in the Church office.

Mailing Address for the Church:

PO Box 285
Barnstable, MA



02630



The Children & Youth Center
3330 Main Street, Barnstable MA 02630
508-362-6371

Our Mission

To provide a safe and sacred space for learning, questioning, and growing.

To honor and affirm the creativity and diversity of all children and youth.

To help create the essential building blocks for a spiritual, loving, healthy, compassionate, and proactive community.

The Children and Youth Affirmation

We believe in Unity.

We believe in Community.

We believe that each of us has the Power to Make a Difference in the world.

Congregation's Affirmation

Love is the doctrine of this church.

The quest of truth is its sacrament.

And service is its prayer.

To dwell together in peace,

To seek knowledge in freedom,

To serve humanity in fellowship,

To the end that all souls shall grown into harmony
with the divine.

Thus do we covenant together.

Director of Religious Exploration Program (DRE)

Jessica Holcomb

The Children & Youth Center: 508.362.6371

Home: 508.775.9440

Email: mjholcomb@hotmail.com

Minister

Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper

508.362.6381

Website: www.barnstableuu.org

Be Involved

Our entire church community welcomes you as you register for the RE program. Just like all our church activities, the programs for children and youth are made possible by the volunteer work and financial contributions of our members and friends.

The RE Program does not collect a Registration fee. Please consider how you can help sustain the Unitarian Church of Barnstable and the programs you care about.

This RE program is a cooperative endeavor. Please choose one or two ways in which you will be able to help as a volunteer.

RE Teacher (8 Sundays)

RE Teacher's Helper/ Substitute

RE Team member (1 meeting per month)

RE Intergenerational Evening Event

RE Holiday Service Help

Social Action Planning

Cooking

Art Project Helper

Field Trips

Youth Program

Do you have something else you would like to suggest?

Please feel free to speak with the DRE Jessica Holcomb if you have a special talent you would like to share, the program is a flexible, growing Tradition of Faith.

is new or struggling: to share what we are thinking or feeling. We say we are sorry when we fail to treat others the way we would like to be treated.

**PRINCIPLE FOUR: EACH MUST BE FREE TO SEARCH FOR
WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT IN LIFE**

This means everyone is encouraged to share their own thoughts and feelings. It means listening to others and exploring the questions we have to discover what is true and right for ourselves. It means that we will allow other people to explore and do the things that have meaning to them without judging or making fun.

**PRINCIPLE FIVE: ALL PERSONS SHOULD HAVE A SAY
ABOUT WHAT AFFECTS THEM.**

Children may share their thoughts and feelings about what happens at church and offer their ideas for new or better ways of doing things. It means all of us, young and old need to listen to one another, ask for suggestions and advice, and work together to make church a safe and special place.

**PRINCIPLE SIX: WORK TOGETHER FOR A PEACEFUL,
FAIR AND FREE WORLD**

This means we settle our disagreements in honest, caring, peaceful ways. We work together to make the RE program a success for all.

**PRINCIPLE SEVEN: CARE FOR OUR PLANET EARTH
WHICH WE SHARE WITH ALL LIVING THINGS**

It means we Recycle, clean up our messes and create a safe and fun environment for everyone. Always striving to leave the Planet and our RE classrooms in better condition than when we found it.

Our Religious Education Program

Welcome! This year Creatively utilizing the elements of Worship, Art, Games and personal self awareness, to explore the concepts of 'God' and what that personally means for each of us. We will gain a deeper understanding of our unique individual spirituality and UU religious identity.

The year begins with the Intergenerational Water Communion Service on Sunday, September 11th. Classes begin Sunday, September 18th. The year ends with the Intergenerational Flower Communion Service and Carnival on June 3rd.

We create events for all ages during the year including; field trips, a "talent/no talent" show, potluck festivals, and religious and spiritual celebrations. Our activities offer many ways to build lasting friendships and community. Calendar updates and event postings are on line @ www.barnstableuu.org and through E mail announcements by the DRE.

*Children and Youth begin Church with their families in the sanctuary at 10:30 for the first 20 minutes of the service. After the Pebbles of Joy and Concern time the RE teachers lead the children downstairs to the Children and Youth Center for their program.

*Childcare is provided in the nursery for infants and toddlers starting at 10:30am However, young children are encouraged to participate in service.

Child Care in our Nursery is provided for ages 0-5 years.

This year we will be using a one classroom model including grades K—10th grade.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) is for 7th – 10th Junior Youth. This group will be meeting Wed nights.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.(YRUU) is Our Senior Youth Group. We meet on Sunday nights from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Children and Youth are welcome to drop into the program at any time during the year.

Children's Choir

The children's choir is conducted by the Minister of Music, Elizabeth Bader. The children and youth sing during intergenerational events and special services. Choir practice is held on Sundays after the service and RE classes and is open to all children 3rd grade and above. Please contact Ms. Bader for more information.

Social Justice

Each year we work with the children and youth to emphasize the UU commitment to Social Justice.

Last year we raised 10,000 pennies to support the Pennies for Peace Program. We will do it again this year! The program is designed to help students broaden their cultural horizons and learn about their capacities as philanthropists. They learn the rewards of sharing and working together to bring opportunities to the children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. While a penny is virtually worthless, in impoverished countries a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy.

Pennies for Peace was founded by Greg Mortenson, the co-author of the NY Times Best Seller Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time.

Helpful tips for children in the sanctuary

- Prepare your child ahead of time.
- Teach them that often there are quiet times of meditation.
- Children are encouraged to participate in the water and pebble ritual to express their own joys and concerns.
- Read song lines to small children ahead of time so they feel a part of the community singing.
- We understand that children often get restless. Please do not let this deter you from bringing your child to Worship with the whole congregation. If your child needs to leave the sanctuary you can still hear the service in Warren Hall, or you may bring your child downstairs to the Nursery.

The 4 Agreements

We endeavor to create a safe and nurturing environment based on our 4 Agreements. In order to fully participate in the program, we ask each child to agree to the following:

- *Respect
- *Listen to each other
- *No put-downs
- *The right to pass

If your child is unable to follow these agreements a parent or guardian will be asked to join the classroom. This way every child knows that this is a safe place to learn and grow

As part of a religious community the promises we make to each other are called a "covenant." This describes how we will treat each other and what we will do to create a safe and sacred space.

A Covenant for the Cooperative Church School

PRINCIPLE ONE: EACH AND EVERY PERSON IS IMPORTANT

Everyone deserves to be treated with respect to have a chance to share, to be heard, to be included in the day's activities at church.

PRINCIPLE TWO: ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY AND KINDLY.

It means everyone - no matter what their age or sex, race or family, abilities or differences - is welcome. We speak up and get help when we see someone being treated unfairly. And we reach out to an adult if our needs are not being met.

PRINCIPLE THREE: WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND LEARN TOGETHER

This means we need to listen to each other, to participate in group activities to the best of our abilities: to help someone who