

The Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote that as Unitarian Universalists, we believe:

1. the inherent worth and dignity of every person, every person is important and valuable;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, all people should be treated fairly;
3. acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations, our churches are places where we should accept one another and learn together;
4. a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, each person should be free to search for what is true and right;
5. the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large, all people have the right to speak out and vote on things that matter to them;
6. the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, we should help build a peaceful, fair, and free world;
7. respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part, we need to take care of the earth, the home we share with all living things.

The Sources of Our Faith

By Betsy Hill Williams

1. Unitarian Universalists look for meaning in many places;
2. Awesome experiences of mystery, beauty, and belonging that all people feel;
3. Words and actions of wise and brave people that make us want to change things that are unjust or cruel, and to offer kindness and love instead;
4. Ideas from lots of different religions that help us figure out what is good and true and fair;
5. Jewish and Christian teachings that encourage us to treat others the way we would like to be treated;
6. Ideas of people who believe in the goodness and power of human beings, who remind us to use science, common sense, and our own brains to think things out;
7. Teachings of people who celebrate nature and remind us to live in harmony with the natural seasons of life.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Barnstable's Religious Exploration Program

2009-2010

**We Believe in Unity
We Believe in Community**



**We Believe that each of us has the power to
make a difference in the world.**

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

Our Unitarian Universalist

Children's 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.

Jessica Holcomb

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The Rev. Dr. Kristen L. Harper

Minister

508-362-6381

Children in the Sanctuary

The children are encouraged to attend the first 15 minutes of the service. There is no childcare for children over 5 years old during this time. If a child is unable to attend this part, we invite the parent (s) to listen in with the child in Warren Hall. After the Child Within Us All, the children will be called downstairs to participate in their RE program.

During Intergenerational Services (see Calendar) Children Participate in worship for the entire service. It is important for Children to worship with the whole community.

- ♣ We understand, as a loving community, that children often get restless, please do not let this deter you from bringing your child into 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 into the Nursery.

Some helpful tips:

- ♣ Prepare your child ahead of time.
- ♣ Teach them that often there might be quiet times of meditation.
- ♣ Children are encouraged to participate in the water/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.

Be Involved

Participation Matters! This is a cooperative program. We all have responsibility in creating a wonderful RE program. This includes your Children's Religious Education Program.

This program requires parents/guardians to participate or assist in at least one of these activities:

- ♣ Teach/Helper at least 1 semester every 2 years
- ♣ Intergenerational Events
- ♣ Join the RE Team
- ♣ Holiday Programs
- ♣ Volunteer for Child Within Us All time
- ♣ Youth Programs
- ♣ Field Trips

The Agreements

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

- Respect
- Listen to each other
- No Put-downs
- The right to pass

Respect is the foundation for behavior in our program. 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.

Ways to make this program work for your family:

- ♣ Be involved
- ♣ Attendance Matters! Consistent participation helps create a sense of community
- ♣ Stay in touch with the teachers, DRE, and the curriculum
- ♣ Ask your child(ren) what he or she are experiencing
- ♣ Share your beliefs with your child
- ♣ Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Our Living Tradition of Faith

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Barnstable Religious Exploration Program. This year our focus will be on U.U. Theology and A New Earth By Eckhart Tolle and our 3rd UU principle:

Our congregations are places where we accept one another and learn together.

People follow different paths, straight or crooked,
according to their temperament, depending on which they
consider best or most appropriate — and all reach — you,
Upanishads

Registration

All children must be registered. *Please fill out the enclosed Registration form.* Please return it to the church or the RE office downstairs at the Children & Youth Center. A drop-off box is located on the RE office door.

Registration donations:

Sliding Scale: \$ 35.00 - 65.00 per family

Our Programs

Intergenerational events, field trips and family fun are woven throughout the year providing lots of opportunities for building friendships and community. Our intention is to provide a meaningful and engaging RE program that meets the diverse needs of our children, youth, and families. The year begins with the Intergenerational Water Communion service on Sunday, September 13. Classes start on September 20 and end with the intergenerational Flower Communion service and carnival the first Sunday in June.

- ♣ Childcare is provided in the nursery for infants and toddlers at the 10:30 a.m. service.
- ♣ At the 10:30 a.m. service, all children meet with their families in the sanctuary through the first 20 minutes of the service. A few times a month we have a Child Within Us All Time. This part of the service often reflects the lessons of that day. Their teachers will lead them downstairs into the Children and Youth Center for the RE program:
 - Group 1: Nursery Care for Ages 0-4
 - Group 2: 5-year-olds – 2nd Grade, Creating Home
 - Group 3: 3rd – 5th Grades, Explorers
 - Group 4: 6th – 8th Grades, Sages & Seekers
 - Group 5: Senior Youth (YRUU) 9th – 12th Grades
- ♣ Starting in October on the first Sunday of each month all children and youth will gather in the children and youth center downstairs for their own worship service.
- ♣ Senior Youth (Grades 9+) participate in the YRUU program held the 1st and 3rd Sunday night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and are encouraged to attend Sunday morning service at 10:30.

Parent Get-Togethers

Parents have fun too! Get to know other parents during this once a month evening of games, movies, potluck and conversation. Parents meet in Warren Hall. Childcare and a movie is provided in the Children and Youth Center. Donation of \$5 per family to cover childcare is requested.

Children's Choir

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

Intergenerational Events

Many times a year we create Intergenerational(All Ages) Events at our Church. This Year we will be having a Halloween Dance in October, A For the Love of the Church Talent show and Dinner in February. There will be more coming soon.....

Intergenerational Services

Intergenerational Services (All ages) happen at 4 times a year. Water communion service on Sept 13th, our annual Holiday Service in Dec., the End of the Year Service in May and our Flower Communion Service. These are fun and Beautiful services where we all worship together!