



# RE NEWZ

November 2017

## Are Your Children Missing the Fun?

Hi Families –

We are nearing the end of the first semester and just wanted to send out some reminders & updates on our class happenings.

### Chalice Children (Pre-school)

The class delves into our Unitarian Universalist faith, provides experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcends everyday understanding, and the life issues we share. There are stories, activities, and plenty of time for free play. The kids have made several chalices, planted seeds, and made Halloween ghosts and cookies. The last few classes talk about family, feeling sad, and gratitude.

### Explorers (Elementary K-2)

*Spirit Play* is a method of teaching, rather than a curriculum. It gives children the tools to help them find and live their answers to the

existential questions, which is the purpose of religious education. Our theme is UU Identity including our seven principles. After the story, the children pick out their activity from a selection of centers including art, science, nature, worship, & reading.

### Navigators (Elementary 3-5)

*UU Super Heroes* introduces children to stories of Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists who have acted with courage and wisdom in their attempts to live their lives fully and make the world a better place for others. They will learn how our seven principles mesh with real world work.

### Searchers (Junior High)

The curriculum, *Living in UUville*, gives youth an opportunity to explore the full meaning of the principles of Unitarian Universalism in their lives, within an environment that encourages individual initiative as well as teamwork in pursuit of multiple goals. The activities encourage youth to think about their

own religious beliefs as they role-play different characters.

### Attendance

Children develop a sense of belonging and community by regularly attending classes. They enjoy it more if they have the opportunity to make friends and know what's going on. **For that reason, regular attendance is important.** Of course, we understand that family situations can make one family's "regular" schedule different from another's schedule, but we hope they can be at classes at least 2-3 times a month!

We also know that children learn their values from their parents. You can help your own child learn the importance of religious exploration classes by facilitating regular attendance, showing an interest in what happens each week, and volunteering your time. **If there is an issue with the teachers or program, please let Amy or a Council Member know.** We cannot improve things, if we are not aware of the issues.



## ***Dia de Los Muertos Service***

**November 5**

“Celebrating Dia de los Muertos: The Spirit of Life and Love”

This is a multigenerational service, and we are excited to have the children with us for this entire celebration. Families are asked to bring mementos of loved ones who have died, including pets. With ritual, story and song, we'll honor our dead and remember that life continues within each of us in the spirit of abiding love.

We want all children to engage in the service as that is the purpose of a multigenerational service. **Here are a few reminders of our policies.**

The Chalice Children class will have an area at the back of the sanctuary to play, supervised by our staff teacher Erin Swift. **We ask that children NOT in the Chalice Children class, sit with their parents, as space is limited.** On our RE Greeter table, there will be items (Soul Work) to occupy busy fingers.

If your child decides to sit on the patio during service, they **MUST** have PARENTAL SUPERVISION! No children will be allowed on the playground during service time.

Thank you for your understanding in helping everyone enjoy this service.

## **Winter Program – December 3 & 10**

Our annual winter program will be held December 10<sup>th</sup> during service time. This is a multigenerational service, in which children do the major part of the 'acting out' of the story.

This year the program is the Nativity Story with a UU Social Justice theme. There are 3 speaking parts and some narrator parts. There are also lots of non-speaking roles for children. The Chalice Children class will be animals in the production.

**Any child that would like to participate must be at RE Classes on December 3, 2017. They will get parts and costumes that day.**



## **Harry and UU**

Beginning in January, the Navigators and Searchers classes will join forces to form a chapter of Dumbledore's Army, as they work to fight several Horcruxes. This curriculum seeks to help participants learn that change is possible through multiple avenues, and can happen whether the problem is local or worldwide. Students will have the opportunity to make a difference in their community and the world through hands-on projects that will also teach them social responsibility.



## **Contacts**

**If you have a suggestion, question, or concern about any of our programs, please let us know. Thank you!**

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