

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CHOIRS

2nd-6th Grades, 7th-12th Grades

Under the direction of Michael Loui and Anine Singh de Good, children in the children's choir will explore a variety of music and learn about performance. The choir will perform regularly during the 9:30 service. Rehearsals are Sundays at 8:30. The Green Bananas, our new youth choir will be directed by Ryan Thomas and will perform at the 11:15 service, rehearsals are TBA. For more information contact Michael Loui, loui@illinois.edu or Ryan Thomas rthomas@me.com

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are many religious education opportunities available for adults throughout the year, including:

- The Sunday morning discussion group meets Sunday mornings in the library from 10:00—11:30 to explore a wide variety of topics.
- Orientation to UUism—Are you new to the church? Do you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? In this class participants learn about the church by focusing on individuals' religious journeys, UU history, beliefs and polity, as well as learn about the many groups and activities of the church;
- Family Ministry classes—Open to families and adults without children. Through a series of workshops, families will explore the meaning of rituals as they make a chalice and explore various spiritual practices in a workshop sampler of several spiritual practices.
- Chalice Circles—are small groups that meet regularly for discussion, personal sharing, and service to the church or community.

See the Adult Religious Education Prospectus and watch the Uniter for announcements of meeting times and additional learning opportunities. If there is a class you would like to offer please see the DRE.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROSPECTUS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



A liberal religious tradition

309 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801
217-384-8862

Director of Religious Education, Renée Papini Cogil
Re-director@uuc-urbana.org
Minister, Rev. Axel Gehrman
minister@uuc-urbana.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I am a gardener in many senses of the word. At home I am currently creating a shade garden where once there was a sad looking lawn, and in the small patch of yard fortunate to receive a bit more sun I am experimenting with some of my more sun-loving favorites. In the past I have helped create drought tolerant gardens, and coaxed beds of flowers and vegetables in raised planters as we said "ha!" to the rocky lean soil beneath. The sharing of plants and ideas with fellow gardeners has always been among the highlights of the experience. In each garden my goal was to learn, create something meaningful, and most importantly to enjoy the process. No garden has ever been complete. From my vantage point it seems each garden is a life long process.

To me our religious education program is much like gardening. We cultivate values, experiment with ideas, and enjoy the support and companionship of learning together. Through varied experiences we hope our children and youth learn, cultivate a meaningful sense of faith, and come to know that their faith is a lifelong process worth their time and effort.

We look forward to a year of tending our spiritual gardens together. We invite you and your children to be active in this process. Make the commitment to attending regularly so that your children, youth and you can reap

the benefits. Our religious education program is not a secret garden. Spread the news; invite your neighbors and friends. Together we will sow a beautiful and spiritually rich garden.

Renée Papini Cogil



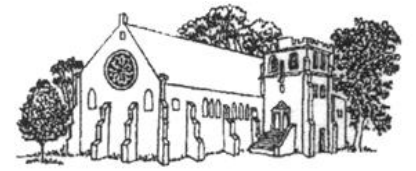
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GOALS

Our goal is to nurture and minister to the children and youth of our church community, and to provide them opportunities to:

- ♦ Actively engage in the process of forming religious beliefs and values;
- ♦ Celebrate and affirm in community those ideals which have united Unitarian Universalists throughout our history;
- ♦ Develop a commitment to Unitarian Universalist values which translates into action;
- ♦ Care for one another and reach into the larger world with our caring;
- ♦ Build a church family where children, youth and adults interact, nurture and care for one another.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS OFFERINGS — 2009-2010



CHILD CARE ROOM

This room is available for families throughout the morning. For infants and toddlers this group-experience gives them an opportunity to develop independent behavior with trustworthy adults and assistants, while briefly away from their parents. While children adjust to their environment parents are welcome to stay. Older children needing child care will find age appropriate activities available.

CELEBRATING ME & MY WORLD

Preschool (Ages 3-5 years)
Offered at 9:30 ONLY

This curriculum celebrates the wondrous qualities of children and the animals, objects, and people around them. Preschoolers will have experiences and opportunities to grow in trust and caring and to develop their self-identity and sense of connectedness with all of life.

PICTURE BOOK WORLD RELIGIONS & TREASURE HUNTING—TAKE TWO

Kindergarten—1st grade
Offered at 9:30 ONLY

With beautiful picture books children will be introduced to world religions and encouraged to explore the differences and similarities to their own lives. In Treasure Hunting—Take Two children will grow in their understanding of themselves and others, while learning about our Unitarian Universalist faith.

HOLIDAYS & HOLYDAYS

2nd—3rd Grade
Offered at 9:30 ONLY

This popular curriculum in which students learn about the origins and meanings of holiday and holy day celebrations has been updated and rewritten in the Spirit Play format. Through stories, manipulatives and activities children will learn the stories told with religious festivities, including our UU stories and those from other religions.

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

4th-5th Grades
Offered at 9:30 ONLY

This new UU identity curriculum incorporates the learning styles of physical movement, challenge and adventure as children learn to incorporate our UU principles into their lives and gain an understanding of the rich heritage of which we are a part.

SPIRIT PLAY

Kindergarten—2nd Grade
Offered at 11:15 ONLY

Spirit Play is a Montessori style classroom of religious education. This class uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching the stories of our faith, the Bible, world religions, sources, mystery, beginnings and endings. Children will develop a sense of the spiritual and wonder for the mystery of life.

BIBLEODEON

3rd-5th Grades
Offered at 11:15 ONLY

Bibleodeon is an experiential program introducing young UUs to stories of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. In the spirit of the children's television channel Nickelodeon, Bibleodeon is designed to be fun as it engages children's various learning styles and intelligences.

NEIGHBORING FAITHS!

6th-7th Grades
Offered at 11:15 ONLY

This class introduces students to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in our community as they continue to explore their own faith and values. Students will become aware of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other faith traditions and increase their understanding of religious diversity. Students will visit other churches.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

8th Grade
Offered at 11:15 ONLY

Our Whole Lives (a.k.a. OWL) is a comprehensive approach to human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Young people will learn to apply these values to their behavior. They will also learn information and skills they can use throughout life. Parents are encouraged to attend the parent orientation. A signed permission slip is required for student participation.

YRUU

9th-12th Grades
Offered at 11:15 ONLY

YRUU, or Young Religious Unitarian Universalist, is a balanced program of social action, worship, activities and fellowship, leadership opportunities, and learning for high school students designed to develop many aspects of their religious lives. Youth and their advisors work jointly to guide and direct their own activities. The youth will be invited to attend district youth conferences and to create and present a worship service for the congregation.

R.E STAFFING

Our R.E. Program is a **cooperative** one, staffed almost entirely by volunteers. Volunteers can take on short-term tasks—such as helping with a special activity, subbing, or assisting in the classroom occasionally—or assume a greater responsibility, by joining a teaching team, being a youth advisor, or serving on the R.E. Committee. At the time of registration, parents are asked to indicate how they can help with our program.

To those of you who do not have children in the R.E. program, we extend a special invitation to serve as a church school, youth or adult education volunteer. For more information contact the DRE, and watch the Uniter for announcements.

UU PLAY GROUP

Children from birth—5 yrs. with a parent/guardian meet Thursday mornings 9:30-11:00 to play, socialize and meet other UUs.