

**Welcome to the 2009-2010 church school year!**

*Our cooperative religious education program provides a variety of religious experiences to guide faith development in children and youth. Through classes, worship, youth groups, choirs, social action, and multigenerational events, children and youth have many opportunities to experience values basic to Unitarian Universalism. The values of freedom, reason, justice, courage, respect, hope, and love are interwoven throughout the curricula. Classes and activities provide safe places where young people can question and wonder, learn and grow, all the while being supported by a nurturing community.*

*As we guide them on their own spiritual paths, we hope children and youth gain an appreciation of the diversity of religious thought. They learn about religious ideas from many sources - our Jewish and Christian heritage, other world religions, UU history - and are guided in developing their own spiritual perspective so that they can lead honest and ethical lives. We explore with them a faith that can anchor them in times of trouble and lift them in times of joy. This program is grounded in our UU principles.*

*This pamphlet briefly describes the program we offer to our young people. We provide the structure for a program of religious education, but the success of our program depends on our members and friends. Parents are expected to teach one semester every other year and participate in some aspect of the program every year. We encourage other parishioners to participate as well.*

*The RE program is thriving with vibrant children and adults. We look forward to another year of religious exploration, spiritual growth, and learning.*

*Julie Porter*

**\* WORSHIP**

An important part of faith development for our young people is the experience of being together with others in the church community at a special time and place for worship. Children in grades one through six attend the first fifteen minutes of the Worship Service in the Meeting House with their families. On "Special Sundays" (on 3-day weekends), 4-yr-olds through sixth graders start out in church and then have a Children's Worship followed by special activities in the Huntley Room.

**\* CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND CHIME CHOIR**

Children's Choir is open to singers in grades 1-6. Chime Choir is open to grades 4-8. Rehearsals for the choirs are held on Sundays at 10:30, alternating monthly between the two choirs. Each choir performs 4 or 5 Sundays throughout the year and for special holiday services. The performances alternate between the early and late services.

**\* NURSERY**

Infant care is available for children under the age of two years. For the 9:15 service, hours are 9:00-10:30. For the 11:00 service, hours are 10:45-12:15.

**\* CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum has been selected and adapted from materials created by the Unitarian Universalist Association or by Unitarian Universalists who have published independently.

**EARLY PRESCHOOL (2- and 3-yr-olds as of Sept. 1)**

EXPLORING OUR WORLD

Activities for this group will include stories, crafts, music, snack and play time. Emphasis is on encouraging comfort and familiarity with the church environment.

**PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN**

WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE

This year-long curriculum offers children the opportunity to learn about their religious community as well as the freedom to discover and express their individuality. It is based on the premise that young children learn about religion and faith through relationships. The goal is to create a loving and secure environment that encourages the child's inherent sense of wonder.

**GRADES ONE AND TWO**

FALL - IN OUR HANDS

The focus of this curriculum is on peace and justice. Children gain an awareness and understanding about peace and fairness and learn skills for promoting those qualities.

They are encouraged to become makers of peace and justice within themselves, in their relationships with others, and with the larger community.

SPRING - BEGINNING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

This curriculum introduces our Unitarian Universalist principles and explores what they mean. Children look at what constitutes a church, learn about the First Parish community, and reflect on important religious questions.

**GRADES THREE AND FOUR**

FALL - SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

The focus in this course is on the development of UU identity in children. Learning about UU's in sports, medicine, science, building, exploring, and cooking, this curriculum engages children actively in many hands-on activities that contribute to an understanding of what it means to be a UU.

SPRING - HEBREW TESTAMENT STORIES

This program introduces Hebrew Testament literature that is central to our culture and heritage. Drawing upon familiar Bible stories, each tale is written in language true to the original source, yet is suited to children of this age. Focus is on relating messages from these stories to our UU identity. Sessions include role playing, crafts and games.

**GRADES FIVE AND SIX**

FALL - JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM OF EQUALS

This course presents a historical perspective on the life and teachings of Jesus. It draws on the four Gospels of the New Testament. Students will become acquainted with Jesus as a radical reformer who, with his insistence on the equality of all people, impacted history. Lessons include teachings of Jesus that reflect our UU principles such as tolerance, love, forgiveness, and the reverence for life.

SPRING - DEALING WITH DEATH

Children often have unvoiced questions and concerns about death. This curriculum deals sensitively with many of those questions. Topics include grieving and loss, traditions and customs surrounding death, and viewing death as part of the circle of life. Field trips and guest speakers are included.

## GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

### OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

This year-long program helps young people make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, it provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps students to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of sexuality.

Teachers have had 25 hours of special training in order to teach this course.

Prerequisite: Parents of prospective students must attend the Parent Orientation.

### JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

This youth group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 for supper, socializing, and service. They will also meet occasionally for outside activities.

## GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE

### Y.R.U.U. (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

The high school youth group is designed to facilitate the transition between the structured children's program and the self-directed church participation of the adult. The selection of group activities will be determined by the young people and their advisors. There will be opportunities for fellowship, learning, worship, leadership, and service. This group meets on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00.

### \* RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Religious Education Council oversees the entire religious education program. It establishes the budget and policies, recruits and supports teachers and advisors, provides multigenerational opportunities, sets goals, decides on curricula, and consults with the DRE. Meetings are held monthly and are open to all parishioners. Council members welcome questions, suggestions, feedback, and support.

## RE Council Members for 2009-2010

Nancy Benton and Deb Doucette, Co-Chairs

Brad Goering  
Kim Hesse  
Dex Malone  
Tracy Marshall

Shannon McDonald  
Donna Nelson  
Joanne Sarkar  
Jennifer Walton

### \* RE CALENDAR, 2009-2010

Sept.	13	Opening Sunday, classes begin
Sept	20	Ice Cream Social in afternoon
Oct.	11 *	Columbus Day Wkend, Special Activities
Nov.	1	Harvest Festival (Multigenerational)
Nov.	8	Undecorate the Tree
Nov.	15	Undecorate the Tree
Nov.	29 *	Thanksgiving Wkend, Special Activities
Dec.	20 ^	Holiday Multigenerational Worship Service
Dec.	24 +	Evening Candlelight Services
Jan.	3	Guest at Your Table
Jan.	10	Fall semester ends; Teacher Brunches
Jan.	17 *	MLK Wkend, Special Activities
Jan.	24	Spring semester begins
Feb.	14 *	Presidents' Day Wkend, Special Activities
Mar.	7	Teacher Recognition Sunday
Mar.	13	Multigenerational social event
Apr.	4 *	Easter, Special Activities
Apr.	18	Patriots' Day Wkend, Special Activities
Apr.	25	Multigenerational Earth Day Service
May	2	Eighth Grade Recognition
May	16	Last day of semester
May	23 *#	Memorial Day Wkend, Special Activities
May	30 *#	Special Activities
June	6 *#	Special Activities
June	13 #	Youth Sunday

\* - 4-yr-olds and older children have worship and activities in the Huntley Room; classes only for Early Preschool

^ - Classes only for Early Preschool

+ - no classes

# - one 10:00 service

## FIRST PARISH IN FRAMINGHAM

### Religious Education Program for Children and Youth 2009-2010



*“The great end in religious education is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own.”*  
- William Ellery Channing

Julie Porter,  
Director of Religious Education

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler  
Senior Minister