

First Parish in Brookline Cooperative Religious Exploration 2014-2015

Nursery: (Birth to 3 years) Playing and building community.

We Are Many, We Are One: (3-5 years) Encourages children to explore their faith as they learn how to play and work cooperatively, express their feelings about themselves and others, see congregations as places for making and caring about friends, appreciate how we are all alike yet different, view nature as a source of gifts that needs our care, celebrate the different religions and cultures of the world.

Spirit Play: (Grades K- 1) They continue to play together and explore independently as they begin to learn about Unitarian Universalism through the Spirit Play Curriculum.

Moral Tales: (Grades 2-3) Provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values in a complex world. Moral Tales strives to inform children about choices through stories in which real and fictional heroes and heroines display moral courage and spiritual greatness. Sessions incorporate hands-on activities, ritual and reflection.

Toolbox of Faith: (Grades 4-5) Unpacking symbolic tools of our faith, children experience and develop their relationship with key qualities that shape a UU identity, faith, and personal call to action. Imagine duct tape symbolizes flexibility; a magnifying glass – questioning; a compass – integrity; a hammer – power. Come equip your toolbox!

Riddle and Mystery: (Grades 6-7) Encourages participants in their own search for understanding. Each of the sessions introduces and processes a Big Question. The first three: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Then we introduce questions about life's mysteries: "Does God exist?" and "What happens when you die?". We conclude with a Unitarian Universalist focus: Can we ever solve life's mystery? How can I know what to believe? What does Unitarian Universalism mean to me?

OWL: (Grade 8) Comprehensive human sexuality program with up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions. Activities help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills.

Challenge: (Grade 9) A journey of youth to articulate what they have given their heart to and discover their own faith. They do this through a structured curriculum and the help of a group of mentors dedicated to supporting them in their personal journey of faith and discovery.

Youth Group: (Grade 10-12) Youth, like adults and children, need to be able to talk about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. Whether delivering an "elevator speech," taking part in an interfaith dialogue, or conversing with friends at the lunch table, youth need practice in describing our multifaceted faith in terms that are personally meaningful and true. Building upon the faith development of Coming of Age and other UU identity programs, this curriculum encourages Youth to look inward for a clearer understanding of their personal faith and guides them to express that faith outward into the world.