

8th and 9th Grade: Coming of Age

The Coming of Age program at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady offers 8th and 9th graders an engaging and structured atmosphere in which to explore significant issues at this transitional stage of life. It is comparable to a confirmation or bar/bat mitzvah.

Some highlights of the program include:

- ◆ Community building time (eg. overnights)
- ◆ Development of a personal belief statement
- ◆ Learning about UU history
- ◆ Working with a mentor
- ◆ A Boston heritage trip in the spring (includes a trip to the UUA headquarters, the UU College of Social Justice, Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, and the Arlington Street Church for a worship service and a tour).
- ◆ COA worship service
- ◆ An end-of-year celebration/party for the youth and their families



To Register:

Please register all children and youth for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady (UUSS) Religious Education (RE) program. The online registration form is available through a link in *Circuits*, the UUSS weekly email newsletter, or on the Learning page of the UUSS website, uuschenectady.org.

Registration ensures that we have up-to-date health and contact information for all children and youth in the program, and it helps our teaching teams prepare materials and activities appropriate to class sizes.

If you have questions, contact Robin Ahearn, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, at dltre@uuschenectady.org or (607)435-2803.



Religious Education
at the
Unitarian Universalist
Society of Schenectady

2019-20 Curriculum



Nursery: Rainbow Children

Our nursery staff creates a welcoming, inviting place for children up to 4 years old. Children are introduced to our UU values of love and kindness through modeled behavior, sharing, and fun activities.

K-1st Grade: Love Surrounds Us

At the core of our Unitarian Universalist community are our seven Principles. The Principles encompass all the ingredients of a good and faith-filled life based on equality, freedom, peace, acceptance, truth, care, and love. This program explores all the Principles in the context of the Beloved Community of family/home, school, and neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.

Note: For 8 weeks in spring 2020, children in grades K-1 will have the option to participate in the K-1 OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum. Details TBA.

2nd-3rd Grade: Keepers of the Earth

This environmental curriculum teaches children respect and stewardship of the Earth and all living things. Beginning with Native American stories, this curriculum provides our children with an abundance of hands-on activities that will inspire them to understand and appreciate Native American cultures and the Earth.



4th-5th Grade: Harry and UU

Harry and UU is based on the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, books that immerse children in the idea that one can work to make the world better. The curriculum includes many fun wizarding activities, with its main purpose to teach about social action. The class forms a chapter of Dumbledore's Army and fights against seven Horcruxes during the year. The Horcruxes are real world social action projects.

6th-7th Grade: Building Bridges

Building Bridges is a world religions program designed to deepen children's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. Participants will go on field trips to nearby religious communities.

8th-9th Grade: Coming of Age

(detailed information on inner flap)

10th-12th Grade: Senior Youth Group

We promote youth empowerment as our youth discuss and work through curriculum based on social justice, worship, fellowship, learning, and leadership opportunities. This group also meets outside of Sunday morning and has weekend events with other UU youth groups for spiritual reflection and communal living.

