

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Stamford! We are so glad your family is here today! Our Religious Education ("RE") program is off for the summer, but we hope that your children will help themselves to a quiet activity found in our children's space in the back of the sanctuary.

Beginning on **Sunday, September 17th**, we will resume Religious Education ("RE") for children and youth in preschool through 12th grade. Our 2023-2024 curricular theme is **"The Gifts of Our Faith"**. We will explore the values of Unitarian Universalism that can shape us and our world. We will also explore the gifts of other faith traditions, guided by the understanding that as we learn about others, we learn more deeply about ourselves. We have three RE program offerings based on age, and each program is staffed by two UUC volunteers:

The **Prek-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Group** meets on most Sunday mornings. The children are with us in the sanctuary for the beginning of the service and then are "sung" out to their class in the RE building across the parking lot behind this building. This class is using the Soul Matters RE curriculum. We will explore ten values central to Unitarian Universalism (such as welcome, generosity, mystery, liberating love, and justice & equity). As we learn about these values, we will explore how they can both challenge and comfort us, and what it means to live and love these values into our world.

Students in the **6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade Group** are invited to join our newly formed **youth group**. Our youth group meets about once per month to play games, build relationships, and explore Unitarian Universalist values together. We also have other opportunities to connect, both with youth-only and as a wider congregation, each month. We plan to visit a different faith community about four times this year to learn about their values and deepen our own interfaith understanding and appreciation. We also plan on hosting various outings and joining in for other family events (such as social action opportunities, Sunday Fun Days, and our evening Around the Table event).

For children **ages 0-3**, we offer nursery childcare in the community room behind the sanctuary. Parents are always welcome to accompany children to class to help them get settled and to see our classes for themselves.

We will also offer Sunday Fun Days, Friday evening Around the Table family events, Parents Night Out Movie Nights, Social Action projects, and other events throughout the year. On some Sundays (about once per month), RE classes don't meet and instead we gather for All-Congregation Worship so that all ages can learn together.

So that you and your children know what to expect each Sunday, please fill out a guest form including your email address. You will then receive our weekly E-Blast and can stay up to date on everything our RE program (and our wider faith community!) has to offer.

Again, welcome to our Community!  
**The Religious Education Ministry Team**