

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 8th**, we will be offering childcare for children three and under in our community room. Join us for a multigenerational Welcome Back service this day!

Beginning on **Sunday, September 15th**, we will resume Religious Education ("RE") for children and youth in preschool through 12th grade. Our 2024-2025 curricular theme is **"The Practices of Our Faith"**. We will explore how Unitarian Universalism is not just a belief, but a way of life. Our faith inspires us to practice our values in the world with intentionality and radical love. We have three RE program offerings based on age, and each program is staffed by two UUC volunteers:

Soul Matters: Our **Prek-5th 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 practices central to Unitarian Universalism (such as invitation, deep listening, repair, inclusion, and joy). As we learn about these practices, we will explore their roots in the UU faith tradition and their role in our own lives.

Students in the **6th -12th Grade Group** are invited to join our **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 three 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. Events are typically announced several months in advance

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. About one Sunday a month, RE classes don't meet and instead we gather for All-Congregation Worship so that all ages can learn together. Families will receive an email with a link to sign up to participate in various aspects of the worship service, all of which can be tailored to any age group!

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