

## WORSHIP

The experience of worship is important for the religious growth of children and youth. To this end, children up to and sometimes including the Junior High group are welcomed into our regular Sunday Worship Service every Sunday for about the first fifteen minutes, where they experience the opening readings, music, a hymn, the chalice-lighting, and a brief "Time For All Ages". They are then sung out to their classes. We ask parents of preschool children to please escort your child to their class. The 9:30 service is the home of the Family Choir, which sings at the service every 3 - 4 weeks. Families of any number and configuration are invited to sing with this group on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

About five times a year, at Ingathering, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and in January for "Children and Youth Ministries Sunday", we hold an Intergenerational service which all children attend with their families. At other times, children youth and families are invited to help in the leadership of the regular service by contributing music, chalice lighting or readings.

## NURSERY – Gandhi Room

Care for our youngest children is provided by paid caregivers, Stacey Gregor and Sydney Colburn, with the support of volunteers. We are eager to provide nurturing care to make it as comfortable as possible for small children and their parents to be in church. Child safety is of utmost importance to us. We require parents who want to use the Nursery to register their children and sign them in and out each Sunday. *We ask that all parents who use the Nursery to volunteer as a parent helper several times a year.*

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

We offer classes during both our 9:30 and 11:00 am Sunday services. At the 9:30 am service there are classes from preschool through 5th grade, and at the 11:00 am service there are preschool through 5th grade and Senior High class. Junior High class meets ONLY from 10:00 – 11:00am. Every Sunday at both 9:30 and 11:00 am children up to 5th grade attend the first part of the service with their families

**and are dismissed to class after 15-20 minutes.**

**The Children and Youth Ministries office is the first room on the left in the Mason Wing. Jennifer Halperin, Director of Ministries with Children and Youth, and Nancy Schwartz, Religious Education Administrative Assistant, are available on Sunday mornings. Our classroom teachers, with the exception of the nursery caregivers, are all volunteers. Some are veteran teachers, and some are newcomers. They are enthusiastic, dedicated, and especially appreciated by all. Please consider joining an RE team as either a teacher or helper for special events and activities.**

# CLASSES AND CURRICULA FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2011–2012 Theme: Our Judeo–Christian Heritage

**PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN (3-6 year-olds) - 9:30 am and 11:00 am**

**Eliot Room**

## *SPIRIT PLAY*

***SPIRIT PLAY* is a child-centered, UU curriculum adapted from *Godly Play* by Jerome Berryman. ([www.spiritplay.net](http://www.spiritplay.net)). Our team of teachers is led by Montessori teacher Cathy Rohrer, with Jennifer Petrus and Christa Brackley at 9:30am and Brendan Coyne, Sally Kupchock and Olivia Parks at 11:00am. .**

## **LOWER ELEMENTARY**

**(1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades) – 9:30 am, Fahs Room**

**(1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades) – 11:00 am, Fahs Room**

## *PICTURE BOOK BIBLE TALES*

***SPECIAL TIMES: HONORING OUR JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN Picture Book Bible Tales*, written by religious educator Kate Tweedy, is designed to introduce UU children to bible stories through the use of fourteen different picture books.**

**<http://www.uure.com/PBBibletales.html>. Each story has activities that will help young children learn the values of our faith. *Special Times* focus on holidays and celebrations from the Jewish and Christian traditions. It was written by UU religious educator Betty Jo Middleton. Teachers at 9:30am are Lisa McDade, Barbara Litt, Jan Steckel and Stuart Olmsted. 11:00am teachers are David Hereth, Vespera Barrow and Susan Regan.**

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

(3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) - 9:30 am, Junior High Room

(3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) – 11:00am, Junior High Room  
Junior High Room

### *LIVING THE PROMISE*

#### *A KINGDOM OF EQUALS*

**Living the Promise** focuses on the Hebrew scriptures, the development of monotheism and the meaning of covenant. **A Kingdom of Equals** focuses on Jesus' radical path toward love and justice and the gospels. Teachers at 9:30-am are Melody Platz, Christy Decker and Kelly Drum. 11:00am teachers are Sage Bowser, Kathy Lawson and Jennifer Lawyer.

**JUNIOR HIGH (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) – 10:00 - 11:00 am only**  
Priestly Room

### *NEIGHBORING FAITHS*

**NEIGHBORING FAITHS** invites the youth to learn about and experience different faith traditions practiced in the Pittsburgh area. For each faith tradition there will likely be one or two introductory classes, then we will invite someone to the class who practices that faith, and then the class will have an off-site visit to the church, temple, mosque or meeting house. The youth are encouraged to have input into which religions they learn about. Teachers are Ebe Emmons-Apt, Bethany Getgen, Paige Beauchamin and Jon Erik Schreiber.

**SENIOR HIGH (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades) – 11:00 am only**  
High School Room

### *TRUTH AND MEANING*

This year the High School class will be following the curricula "**Truth and Meaning; Questions About Western Religious Heritage of Unitarian Universalism.**" which was developed by former First Church Youth Group Leader Jeff Liebmann who has now become the minister of the Unitarian Church in Midland, Michigan. The youth will also be involved in The Green Sanctuary Program which was originally nurtured and managed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth. It was designed to give roots and wings to the vision that together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth that is central to our lives.