

NEW FAMILY WELCOME TO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We invite families just discovering Unitarian Universalism to join us for 4 weeks to decide if our Religious Exploration program is right for your child. After 4 visits we ask that you register your child. You are welcome to “sit in” on your child’s class and to talk with their teachers and the Religious Exploration Coordinator.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:30AM Early Childhood Room open for drop-off and transition

10:45AM Service Begins

Children age 6 and up begin their time at Church in the Sanctuary sitting with their parents and/or friends

11:15AM Religious Exploration Begins

Children and Youth go to their classes with guides and advisors

12:15pm Religious Exploration ends.

Parents of younger children should come downstairs to pick up their children and can check in with their teacher. All Children and parents are encouraged to join hospitality hour in the Parish Hall.

FIRST SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of each month, children gather for chapel and fun activities downstairs and you have a special activity beginning at 10:45AM. The Early Childhood Room is open for younger children.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES (FOR CHILDREN)

1. Everyone is important
2. Treat Everyone Fairly
3. Everyone is welcome and we keep learning
4. Everyone is free to look for what is true and right.
5. It is good to talk to each other about things that concern us.
6. We want a peaceful, fair and free world
7. We care for our planet earth.

THE SIX SOURCES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM (FOR CHILDREN)

1. The sense of wonder we all share.
2. Women and men long ago and today – people whose lives remind us to be kind and fair.
3. The ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world’s religions.
4. Christian and Jewish teachings which tell us to love all others as we love ourselves.
5. The use of reason and the discoveries of science.
6. The harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life.

For more information about our Religious Exploration Program, please contact the Religious Exploration Coordinator at re@uucsi.org or call the Church Office at 718-447-2204.

To keep informed about all Church events and programs please visit www.uucsi.org

THE Unitarian Church
of Staten Island

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PROGRAMS



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF STATEN ISLAND
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RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COORDINATOR

Michael Porter
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RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

Simone Andrews
Kate Howard
Mary Hernandez
Diane Matyas
Raffaella Iosue

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

“I am so excited about the programs that the Religious Exploration (RE) Committee, teachers, parents and volunteers have launched and the children and youth have embarked upon here at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. Through this brochure I hope you will dig deeper into what it can mean for children and you to explore the central questions and mysteries surrounding living, learning and laughing together in a spiritual community dedicated to the beloved community we dream of.”

Reverend Susan Karlson

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of our religious exploration program is to provide a joyful, safe and nurturing environment, which encourages:

- spiritual growth through the practice of free inquiry
- respect and appreciation for diverse cultures, beliefs and world religions
- guided exploration of Unitarian Universalist principles
- the power to make ethical choices
- service to the wider community

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

Welcome to our community of growth visioning, reflection, and spirit building. We invite you to join us in this exciting journey!

REGISTRATION

We ask parents to register each child who will participate in the Unitarian Church of Staten Island’s Religious Exploration Program. Our registration fee is \$30.00 child. No family will be excluded if payment is a hardship. Please see the Director of Religious Exploration or a member of the Religious Exploration Committee.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ROOM (AGES 6 Months – 5 Years)

With childcare providers and parent volunteers, preschoolers (and younger children) explore the concepts of friendship, family and community. Activities include story time, free play, and arts and crafts. Drop off and transition time begins at 10:30AM to give children time to separate comfortably before the upstairs service begins.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION EXPLORERS (AGES 6 -13 Years)

The Explorers engage in a journey of spiritual and religious exploration along with their adult “spirit guides.” Exploration takes place through story telling, and discussions. Our goal is to provide children with an emotionally safe space to engage in spiritually and socially engaging experiences that help them develop their own framework for spiritual growth.

YOUTH (AGES 14 Years and up)

Teens work with adult guides on Sundays to engage in intellectually stimulating exchanges regarding religion, spirituality and social justice. Flexibility in structure allows the group to respond to the dynamic needs of participants.