

# Volunteering

It is expected that parents of enrolled students will support the program through volunteer activities. This can include:

- Serving periodically as a classroom volunteer.
- Performing support tasks such as story basket preparation, clerical tasks and classroom organization.
- Regular participation in the RE Committee, which holds monthly evening meetings at the Church.

## Program Schedule

RE classes are held during the Sunday service, which begins at 10:30 a.m..

All RE students attend the beginning of service each week. Please encourage your student(s) to participate in the opening hymn and reading, the greeting of their neighbors, and the Story For All Ages.

Following the Story For All Ages, students are dismissed to their RE classrooms.

Neighboring Faiths will often continue slightly past the end of service. As service length can vary slightly from week to week, Spirit Play may also extend a few minutes past service's end. Spirit Play students must be picked up at the door of the RE classroom by a parent or guardian.

QuickTime™ and a  
decoder are needed to see this picture.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF UTICA

10 Higby Rd.  
New Hartford, NY 13501  
Phone: 315-724-3179

**Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
of Utica**

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## Children's Religious Education Offerings

"Education is not  
preparation for life;  
education is life  
itself."  
— John Dewey

## Program Goals

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- Develop an identification with the Unitarian Universalist denomination and an understanding of the UU Principles & Purposes, listed below.
- Assist our children in exploring the world's religions.
- Enhance the children's involvement with each other and the congregation.
- Provide a safe place to promote the use of natural curiosity.

### OWL (Our Whole Lives)

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups from Kindergarten through adulthood. This year, UU Utica will be offering OWL classes on Sunday afternoons for three age levels: grades 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Please contact Jack Pendrak if interested.

### Nursery

The nursery (birth-4) is staffed by two adult volunteers during our fall-spring church services. Children should be signed in by a parent and collected promptly at the end of the service.

## Spirit Play (Ages 4-9)

The Spirit Play Curriculum is a Montessori based program adapted for use in Unitarian Universalist Churches.

The classroom is set up as a prepared environment, stocked with story baskets and art activities. Each week, the teacher tells a story using one of the baskets, which contain materials that serve as visual, tactile representations of the story. Students "wonder" about the story in multi-age discussions, then explore and express their wonderings through art activities. Stories have been developed in many categories, including:

Unitarian Universalist Focal Shelves  
Promises (Principles)  
Sources  
Stories of the Mystery  
Beginnings and Endings  
Sacred Places  
Church Corner  
Religion Boxes and Ways to Pray  
Heroes and Heroines

"Spirit Play provides a process for children to explore theological language through the medium of story. Children are thus introduced to the story of our faith in a concrete way and can then wonder about at their own level of maturity, intelligence and creativity."

~Dr. Nita Penfold, SPIRIT PLAY author

## Neighboring Faiths (Age 10+)

Students ages ten and up typically participate in one-year curricula. The curriculum for 2010-2011 is Neighboring Faiths. This curriculum introduces youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in their community.

Leaders and participants together plan their program, determining which religious groups they want to learn about, visit, and relate to their growing Unitarian Universalist faith. The first and final units focus on our UU principles and sources.

Youth in the Neighboring Faiths class also participate in various social and service activities, including church lock-ins, youth-led services, and hospitality hour hosting duties.

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### IMPORTANT RE CONTACTS:

RE Committee Chair: Mary Drucker,  
mdrucker@utica.edu  
RE Co-ordinator: Julie Pawelek-Jacobs,  
JJacobs@hpschools.org  
RE Teacher: Sarah Cannon,  
SaillenotSallie@gmail.com  
OWL Co-ordinator: Jack Pendrak,  
jpendrak1@roadrunner.com