

Dear Families,

Happy summer!

Even as we are finding ways to play and keep cool over the next couple of months, my thoughts are already on next year's religious education programs for our children and youth.

To help us plan and prepare, please register today for the 2026-2027 RE program using this link: <https://uucharlottesville.breezechms.com/form/REregistration202627>

I'm very excited about what our kids will be doing and learning in RE starting in September!

Our 0–5-year-olds will enjoy time together and get comfortable at church through the program “Celebrating Me & My World.”

Our 4-year-olds through 1st grade will experience newly updated stories in Spirit Play that will focus on our shared UU values of pluralism, generosity, equity, transformation, interdependence, and justice—with love at the center.

Our 2nd-5th graders will learn about our UU Values and putting love at the center through the curriculum “Love Connects Us.” They'll explore our heritage of love, truth-seeking, and peacemaking from our Unitarian and Universalist forebears. Although our theological beliefs can be diverse, our covenant with one another and the love we bring to it unite us in a common bond. Here's a link to the curriculum if you'd like to explore it more: <https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/loveconnects>

Our 6th & 7th grades will experience Neighboring Faiths this year—a wonderful curriculum that invites them to develop skills as good neighbors and citizens by becoming familiar with and visiting other faith groups in our community and beyond. The youth are always enthusiastic about the field trips in this class. As 6th & 7th graders, they also have social events with one another throughout the year.

For our 8th & 9th graders, this is the Coming of Age “Challenge” year where our youth explore their own beliefs both in class on Sunday mornings and by meeting with a mentor. At the end of the church year, youth have a special recognition ceremony and are invited to officially become members of the congregation.

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is our senior high youth group. They meet on Sunday afternoons from 12:15-1:30. Through conversation, service, fun activities, sharing and more, the group is a place of support, learning, and deep friendship.

As you can imagine, we need volunteers in a variety of roles and capacities to make our program run. If you would like to work with a team of others in the classroom, help with behind-the-scenes projects or special events, or be on the Religious Education Committee, I would love your help and participation. Please let me know how you would like to serve.

And here's the registration link again to complete for your family today.

<https://uucharlottesville.breezechms.com/form/REregistration202627>

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or for more information.

In faith and with love,
Rev. Leia