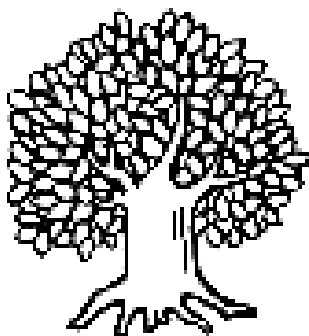


**Palomar Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
Religious Education**



*Roots and Branches:
Our Judeo-Christian Heritage*

**Handbook
2008/2009**



All that quickens sympathetic imagining, that awakens sensitivity to others' feelings;

All that enriches and enlarges understanding of the world;

All that strengthens courage, that adds to the love of living;

All that leads to developing skills needed for democratic participation;

All these put together are the curriculum through which children learn.

~ Sophia Lyon Fahs

MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION

The vision of the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Religious Education Committee is that children and youth ages 0-20 will:

- ✚ Develop a UU Identity;
- ✚ Become knowledgeable and aware of UU heritage, history and principles;
- ✚ Develop a dedication to service;
- ✚ Establish personal core values;
- ✚ Establish spiritual and religious traditions; and
- ✚ Acquire the necessary tools to embark on a lifelong spiritual path.



CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Service:

Children begin each Sunday in fellowship with the congregation. After the story for all ages, they go to their age-appropriate classrooms. We offer children's religious education at both services as follows:

1st Service – 9:00

Nursery through Preschool
Primary Class (K-2nd grade)
Intermediate Class (grades 3-5)

2nd Service – 10:30

Nursery through Preschool
Primary Class (K-2)
Intermediate Class (3-5)
Tweens (grades 6-8)
YRUU (grades 9-12)

First Service RE classes end at 10:15 am

Second Service RE classes end at 11:45

CLASS INFORMATION

Class Levels



Nursery/Preschool (Infants through preschool). For infants and children to five years old, this program begins with a candle-lighting circle time followed by free play and craft time. The children play outdoors in the pre-school play yard, supervised by adults, then have snacks while listening to a story in the classroom. The class is taught by Bob Kintz and Jasmine Maldonado.

Primary (Grades K-2) and Intermediate (Grades 3-5) age groups are exploring the curriculum called Timeless Themes. This program introduces children to religious literature that is central to North American culture and to Unitarian Universalist heritage. Children become familiar with their cultural heritage, and to the human issues that inspired these scriptures: the timeless themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbor, and forgiveness. This class and subsequent classes are taught by a rotating team of parent volunteers. Meets in the Reeve Room.



Tweens (Grades 6-8). The Tweens are exploring the curriculum How Can I Know What to Believe? This program helps young people explore, formulate, and articulate their attitudes and beliefs about people in the Bible, God, death, and Unitarian Universalism. They'll explore humanist roots through the history of great ideas and the lives of Erasmus, the Buddha, Bertrand Russell, Margaret Sanger, Felix Adler, and others. Meets in the Alcott Room

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists - Grades 9-12/Ages 14-20). This youth group is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. This active high school age group meets every Sunday in the library during the service for worship, discussion and social action. Meets in the Library.

Classes are taught by volunteers, both parents and other adults who may not have children in the program. Please see page 10 for more information



OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for five age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, and adults.

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

COMING OF AGE

Coming of Age is a program that marks the transition from childhood to young adult for youth in 8th and 9th grade. Many UU congregations mark this transition with a 6 month to a year-long coming of age programs, which generally include four parts: pairing youth with adult mentors; discussions and retreats that emphasize self-awareness and confidence-building; service to the church and community; and a culminating affirmation ceremony.

CLASS INFORMATION, CONTINUED

Age/Grade Policy

Generally, children and youth are placed in classes according to their grade in school. Parents of homeschooled children may discuss placement of their children with the Director of Religious Education.

Starting/Ending Times

Children and youth begin in the sanctuary with their families along with the rest of our congregation. There is usually a children's recessional following a Story for All Ages, after which the congregation will sing a recessional hymn while the children and youth are walked to their classes. First Session RE classes end at 10:15 am. Second Session RE classes end at 11:45 pm.

Picking up Children

Tweens and YRUU are dismissed from class when the class is over. Children in the Intermediate class may be dismissed without

parent/guardian having to pick them up as long as there is written permission from a parent or guardian. Children in the Nursery/Preschool through Primary class must have a parent or other agreed-upon responsible party pick them up from the classroom when class is over.

Please pick up your children directly after the service. This allows our volunteer teachers time to get out to coffee hour for some well-deserved socializing!

No Playground Supervision

Please note that there is no supervision of children on the fellowship grounds or the playgrounds before or after the service. Please supervise your children at these times.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

The following policies were approved and adopted by the PUUF Board of Trustees in December 2006.

Yearly Registration Required

Parents of regularly attending children and youth (more than three visits in the Religious Education Program) MUST complete a blue RE Registration form at the beginning of each Religious Education year.

Volunteer Guidelines

Volunteers must have regularly attended our fellowship for six months before they can volunteer in the RE program. All classroom volunteers must review and sign two forms: the *PUUF Code of Conduct for Adults Working with Children and Youth* and the *Voluntary Disclosure Form*.

Number of Teachers

There shall be two teachers per class - not from the same family - and be scheduled two weeks prior to volunteer date or the class will be closed.

Child In Class or With Parent

Children and youth in the program must be either in class or with a parent or responsible party during the service.

Disruptive Behavior and Procedures

If a child's behavior is disrupting the class and every attempt has been made to involve and/or distract the child, *and she/he continues to be disruptive*, the DRE will be summoned to the classroom. The child may be removed from class to join parents in the service or may accompany the DRE as she does her work.

Teachers will not employ corporal punishment in our classrooms at any time.

Field Trip and Transportation Policies

All drivers must be at least 25 years of age and must provide proof of insurance.

There must be enough seat belts for everyone and everyone must wear a seat belt.

Written permission of the parent/guardian of all minor passengers will be obtained prior to be transported. This permission will include all relevant details pertaining to the event, such as date and location, name of driver(s), time of departure, and time of

return.

No driver may consume alcohol or use any form of drug which can affect physical or mental performance during or before carrying out her/his duty as a driver.

A minimum of two adults must accompany a group going off-site. Exceptions for exigent circumstances only may be made by the primary on-site adult leader.

A copy of the driver's license and proof of insurance for the driver will be kept on file and updated as needed.



GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN

BASED ON OUR SEVEN UU PRINCIPLES

shared by and adapted from First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas



We believe that each and every person is important.

- ✝ Safety is our first concern!
- ✝ Children in Nursery through Intermediate classes must remain in classrooms or supervised areas until picked up by parents.
- ✝ Only gentle play is appropriate on fellowship grounds.
- ✝ Treat everyone with respect. Use caring language and behavior.

We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

- ✝ Listen and follow directions.
- ✝ Be polite. Take turns.
- ✝ Care about one another.



We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

- ✝ Make a commitment to regular attendance. Your friends and teachers depend upon you.
- ✝ Include everyone in class activities and planning.
- ✝ Friends are welcome in class. Let them know our rules.
- ✝ Participate with enthusiasm.

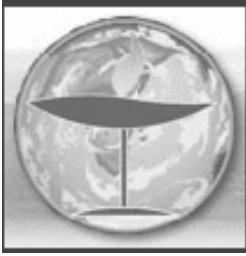


We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

- ✝ Share your ideas and respect the ideas of others.

We believe that all persons should have the right to speak out and have a vote about what concerns them.

- ✝ Express your opinions constructively.
- ✝ Respect the decision of the group.



We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world.

- ✚ Ask for help when you need it.
- ✚ Do your best to get along with others and to be helpful.
- ✚ Be willing to listen to reminders about your behavior.
- ✚ Participate in fellowship social action projects.

We believe in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things.

- ✚ Take good care of our fellowship. Help clean up.
- ✚ Be careful with our space, furniture, and materials.
- ✚ Use only what you need. Recycle.
- ✚ Be gentle with the plants and animals.
- ✚ Do not climb small trees or walk on newly planted areas.

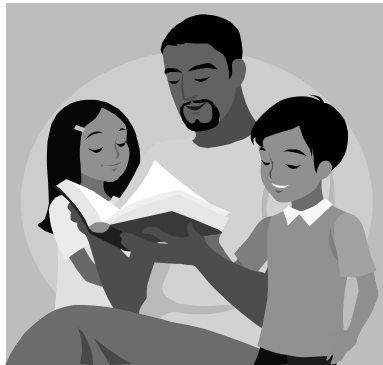


EXPECTATION OF PARENTAL COMMITMENT

PUUF does not charge a fee for its Religious Education program. Ours is a cooperative, volunteer-led program. Parents/guardians are expected to volunteer a minimum of nine hours per family per school year. Please check with the Director of Religious Education or an RE Committee member to find out how you can help.

RE volunteer hours may include teaching/helping in the classroom, bringing snacks, set up or clean up, or helping in children's chapel. Staffing classes is given priority. Every effort will be made so that these tasks are spread over the entire pool of volunteers so that no one group of people is always in the classroom and another bringing snacks.

Sometimes, children feel anxious when attending a new church or progressing to a new RE age group. Your presence in the classroom can be a reassuring way to help with your children's concerns. You are always welcome, whether helping in the classroom or simply being present for your child.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee has the responsibility for religious education of our Nursery through Senior High youth. The responsibilities include volunteer teacher support, decisions regarding program curriculum, establishing program goals, policies and procedures, and promoting intergenerational activities.

The Religious Education Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Reeve classroom. All are welcome!

2008-2009 RE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristen Walton

Blanca Arias

Debbie Yasaki

Marianne Gifford

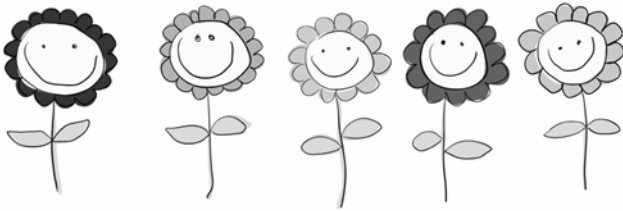
Ex officio: Lisa Wellens, Director of Religious Education

Contact Information

Phone: (760) 941-4319 M-F, 9 am - 12 pm

Email: vistauu@att.net





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