



### Message from Our Minister

Each Sunday I get to stand before the congregation and say “We at UUSMV honor and celebrate our children and youth.” We have made a commitment to our families and we are following through with it by providing weekly instruction through storytelling, hands on activities, games, and basically allowing imagination, creativity and good old fashion fun to take the lead.

It is our hope that the children and youth at UUSMV develop a healthy sense of self and a curiosity about the world and their place in it. The children and youth are the future of this world so let us make certain we instill within them our UU values of acceptance, tolerance, and a healthy respect and love for humanity.

I am excited to see us expanding our programs – as the way to grow a church has always been through a dynamic and creative religious education program. Come and join us as we reach out to better this world – one child and youth at a time.

Rev. Bill



Gia Winsryg-Ulmer, RE Coordinator

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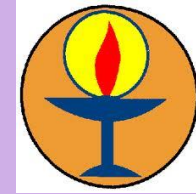
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## Children & Youth Programs for 2016/17

We build loving religious communities by giving children and youth opportunities to discover and affirm truths about themselves in relationship with peers and caring adults. Children and youth need a sense of belonging to a religious home and thrive when they participate in community celebrations with people of all ages. As children grow older it is important for them to explore their own beliefs.

In classes and in community we live and teach the values upon which Unitarian Universalism is based. Our youth grow into themselves with confidence and with an intellectual curiosity that stays with them well into adulthood. Through education we invite children and adults to bring their separate gifts, stories, ideas, and questions to the whole, experiencing the power of love that transforms a group of like-minded seekers into a community, and helps us to connect, not only with one another, but with all of humanity. We are inviting people to not just individually seek truth, justice, and harmony; we are inviting people to seek those things in a community that understands and tries to act in accordance with our seven Principles.

## Children's UU Principles

### 1) Each person is important.

*Speak and act with respect for classmates, teachers, and all members of the congregation, and for oneself.*

### 2) Be kind in all you do.

*We work to make the rules fair for everybody so that everyone is treated fairly.*

### 3) We're free to learn together.

*In our congregation and community, we trust one another and we promise to help one another.*

### 4) Search for what is true.

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

### 5) All people need a voice.

*When we discuss something, we listen to what each person wants to say.*

### 6) Build a fair and peaceful world.

*We believe it is our task to make the world a place that is peaceful, fair and free. Do your best to get along with others and to be helpful.*

### 7) We care for the Earth.

*We love and respect the earth's environment and all its plants and animals.*



***We welcome all families in our Children & Youth programs.***

***Registration:*** *There is no fee for the program, but a responsible adult must complete a registration form for each child. Because community is an important component, we ask that the parent or guardian of enrolled children participate in the UUSMV community.*

### ***Age based groups:***

At this time, we do not have a nursery program. Infants and children are welcome in the service and quiet toys are provided in the chapel.

***UU Explorers 1*** (for children in grades K-3) meets 2 Sundays per month during service for ***Spirit Play*** - a UU curriculum of storytelling, wondering, and art and drama. Wonder questions are used to allow children to see the UU principles at work in the world.

***UU Explorers 2*** (for youth in grades 4-6) meets 2 Sundays per month during service for ***Spirit of Adventure*** - a UU curriculum of activities connected to UUs like dissecting a computer or cooking from a recipe. Each activity is connected to a UU principle, source and person.

***Compass Points*** (for youth in grades 7-9): ***Coming of Age*** - will start in January. This is an important UU rite of passage program marking the transition from childhood into adolescence toward adulthood. Youth are paired with adult mentors from the congregation. Through group activities and retreats, the youth investigate their (Cont.)

### ***Age based groups (cont.):***

personal spirituality and develop a sense of what they believe. Each youth develops his or her own credo statement that is shared with the congregation at a youth-led service at the end of the year.

***Senior High*** (for grades 9-12): Youth meet for discussion and fun activities once per month. This is an opportunity for the youth to connect with Reverend Bill and one another to talk about issues in the life of a teen.



***Children's Chapel*** (for children and youth pre-K to senior high) The Children's Chapel is a component of faith development for our children and youth in which they not only learn about UU sources, traditions, and principles but also get to experience UU rituals. It is a multi-age program that meets one Sunday per month and builds community among our youngest and oldest children and youth - offering them a larger UU family.

***Universal Justice Sundays*** (for children and youth pre-K to senior high) Universal Justice Sunday is a component of faith development for our children and youth in which they learn about UU sources, traditions, and principles especially in relation to our mission of universal justice and community action. Through universal justice projects, they learn how they can make a difference in the world. It is a multi-age program building community among all our children and youth.