

Dear Friends, Families & Members,  
Welcome to UUSS!

We have a wonderful array of people here, with great kids and youth of all family configurations, backgrounds, gifts and abilities. We have planned for an enriching year. The monthly RE calendar is on our website and in the monthly Unigram newsletter. Weekly updates appear in emails from UUSS and in the printed Sunday Blue Sheet. We also send out a bi-weekly RE Outreach by email with information, pictures, invitations and updates. If you have any questions, please contact our RE Coordinator, Miranda Massa, at [re@uuss.org](mailto:re@uuss.org).

### Words of Gratitude

We appreciate our Religious Education leaders, our many other church volunteers of all ages and stages of life, and our church staff. The gifts of time, talent, and care by our staff and volunteer leaders make our programs exciting and excellent. We are so grateful to our multi-generational team of leaders for their commitment and their enthusiasm. See you soon!

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### UUSS Mission Statement

We come together to deepen our lives and  
to be a force for healing in the world.

### UU Principles and Rainbow Promises

Spirit Play has color coded the seven UU Principles.  
For children, they are called the Rainbow Promises.

**Red Promise:**

1. Respect all people

**Orange Promise:**

2. Offer kind and fair treatment to all

**Yellow Promise:**

3. Yearn to accept and learn about ourselves and others

**Green Promise:**

4. Grow by exploring what is true and right

**Blue Promise:**

5. Believe in our ideas and act on them

**Indigo Promise:**

6. Insist on freedom, justice, and peace for all people

**Violet Promise:**

7. Value our home, Earth, that we share with all living beings

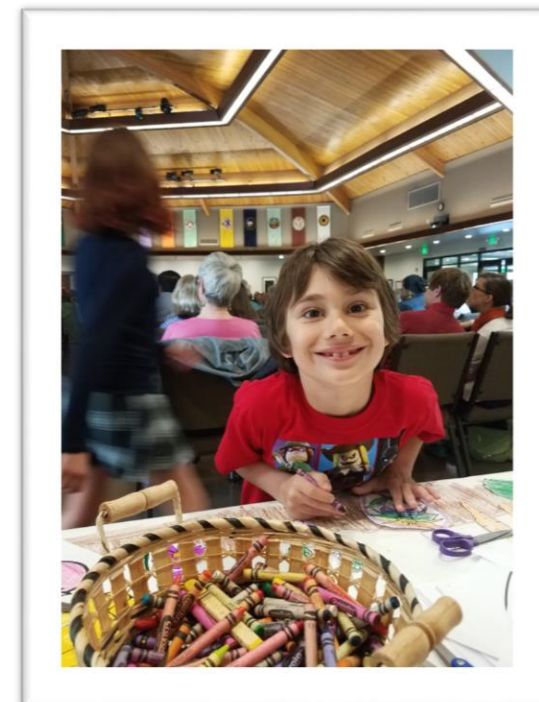


### Stay Informed and Stay Connected

Join us in developing or hosting additional activities to build community across the generations this year. Please reach out to a minister or RE Coordinator if you have a special request, idea, concern, compliment, or gift to make. Thank you.

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# Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento



## Religious Education Children & Youth

2017-18

## A Brief Introduction

## Sunday Morning Programs

### 10:30 a.m. September 2016 through May 2017

Religious Education (RE) programs take place during our 10:30 am service. Children and youth begin in the service with their families for opening songs, announcements and the Chalice Lighting ritual. After the kids/youth & volunteer leaders are sung out to their classes. At our All-Ages service one Sunday every month we recognize everyone with a birthday that month with a song at the start of the service.

**Prior to entering every service, please stop by the RE Table to sign in and make a name tag. While there, you can talk to staff or volunteer RE hosts. Please fill out a Registration Form, which is essential to supporting our children, youth, parents, volunteer leaders, and staff.**

### Nursery Care for Infants and Toddlers

At every service and special event, we have two child care providers on staff watching over children up to age 5. Infants and toddlers start out in the Nursery rather than in the service. It usually makes the transition a bit easier for them.



### Spirit Play for Elementary age

Learn about it at [www.spirit-play.com](http://www.spirit-play.com). Spirit Play is a ritual-based method to promote community-building, spiritual reflection and fun. Based on Montessori teaching principles, this UU program teaches our liberal religious traditions and values through stories and wondering together. Teacher training every summer.

## UUSS Youth Ministry

We invite youth to attend worship services with friends and family on most Sundays, unless they are in OWL or it is a scheduled Youth Group Sunday.

**Our Junior High and High School programs will *only* occur on 10 scheduled Sundays during this RE year:**

October 22, November 26, December 24, December 31, January 28, February 25, March 25, April 1, April 29, and May 27.

**Junior High Youth Group (JHYG)—Grades 6-8:** JHYG will explore the UU Principles. **Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) – Grades 9-12:** SHYG invites teens to discuss issues affecting their everyday life. Both groups can make friends in a safe spiritual community. They can deepen their UU identity at four district-wide weekend youth retreats.

\*Regular attendance will deepen the mentoring friendships between the adult leaders and youth. Participation helps to build supportive connections as they navigate life passages.



### All-Ages Worship Services every Month

Watch our emails and newsletter for All-Ages worship Sundays. We plan them to include and appeal to all ages and build our inter-generational community. On these Sundays, we have no RE classes, but the Nursery is staffed.

### Chalice Camp for a Week in Summer

This is a Day Camp using arts, music, drama and small groups to teach UU heritage and values. Led by adult volunteers and teenage counselors, for kids entering grades 1-6.

## Optional Special Programs in RE

### Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education, offered this RE year



Teams of trained adult volunteers lead OWL, a UU program to promote respect for self and others, personal responsibility, communication skills, and factual knowledge about sexuality. Advance registration and parent orientation required. OWL classes offered this year for grades 7-8-9.

### Coming of Age (COA) Program, (2018-2019)

COA is a rite of passage, equivalent to the Christian Confirmation or the Jewish Bat or Bar Mitzvah. COA helps youth discern for themselves what it means to be a UU individually and as part of our faith community. COA is an addition to our regular youth programs with its own schedule and separate registration deadlines.

### All-Ages Activities and Community Building

UUSS holds events to promote community building among all ages. On a summer weekend, we have our all-church camp-out at Camp Norge in Alta. Kids and parents also help in hosting homeless guests at the church through Family Promise, or the monthly cleanup of a mile of American River Parkway, other service activities, and family potluck, holiday party and games night.

### UUSS Community Garden

Our on-site garden, UURTH Song, is a never ending source of delight, conversation, and food for all ages together. RE holds Garden Sundays once a year. We make salsa with the produce and get to play in the dirt! Families may wander through it any day of the week. All-community garden beds are tended by volunteers, and a few of the beds are rented out for a small irrigation charge every season.

### Donations to Make the Program Strong

UUSS is supported by the voluntary generosity of members and contributing friends. Your financial pledges to the UUSS Operating Budget every month make possible all of the staff who serve us and the programs we offer. Thank you!