

6th and 7th Grade (and 8th that are not in OWL)

Building Bridges

Building Bridges is a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. This program includes field trips to experience the worship life of other faith communities. Building Bridges encourages acceptance by fostering firsthand experience and dialogue with different religious communities, including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and earth-based spirituality.



Eighth Grade

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Eighth grade OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education program that includes age-appropriate information about human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It's grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, addressing not only the physical components, but the spiritual, emotional, and cultural as well. Instructors must attend OWL teacher training, and parents must attend a parent orientation meeting in September. Youth are expected to attend each weekly class. This group does not attend a Time for All Ages.

Ninth Grade

Coming of Age (COA)

Coming of Age has been redesigned for MLUC 9th graders, in recognition that they are at the beginning of a journey—able to reflect on all they have learned, while investigating and defining their own beliefs. This program invites students to deepen their understanding of UUism and their knowledge of MLUC, and to begin a contemplative process around their own spirituality. The COA year includes opportunities for service, fellowship, fun, and adventure. Activities on both Sunday mornings and at other times engage youth in a process that culminates in the creation of personal credos (Latin: “what I set my heart to”). In spring, a youth-led service celebrates a unique threshold in their spiritual journey when youth share their own credos with the congregation. Parents and youth are required to attend a parent orientation meeting in September. Youth are expected to attend each weekly class. This program requires a high level of commitment by parents and youth. COA also includes a program from the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia called Walking the Walk, a nationally-recognized initiative that provides teenagers with experiences, skills, and resources to live in a diverse world, deepen their own identities, and break through walls that divide them from people of other religious, cultural, & economic backgrounds. Youth will engage in five sessions with other faith communities (New Horizons Islamic School, The Narberth Havurah, and Beth Chaim Reform Congregation) to understand each other's faiths more deeply and discuss issues. COA does not attend a Time for All Ages.



EVENING YOUTH GROUPS

Seventh - Eighth Grade 6:00 p.m.

Junior Youth Group (JYG)

Junior Youth Group is an evening program that meets one Sunday of each month. Their community-building activities have included bowling, bonfires, nature outings, and a wide-range of games. At each meeting, JYG youth share snacks and join in dialogue on important issues that are relevant to their lives. Some special evenings this year will include collaboration with YRUU. Activities are led by adult advisors.

Ninth – Twelfth Grades 6:00 p.m.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists is a Sunday evening program that offers high school youth a channel for social interaction. YRUU is a place where youth get to know each other, build community, and establish life-long friendships. YRUU is primarily youth-led, as they design and facilitate most activities. The program balances service learning, fundraising, social action, youth-led worship, and in-depth dialogue on important issues. YRUU youth also organize or participate in several all-church multigenerational events throughout the year.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Contact our Membership Coordinator, Jessica Hirsch Lynn (jessica@mluc.org), to learn about the Pathway to Membership, a series offered in the Fall and Spring that culminates with the opportunity to sign MLUC's membership book.

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

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FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Religious Education Programs for Pre-K to 12th Grade

September 2017 – June 2018

Children and Youth



MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH
WWW.MLUC.ORG

Welcome to Faith Development at Main Line Unitarian Church. Our Religious Education programs seek to:

- **Develop** Unitarian Universalists who are fully functioning religious beings engaged in honest dialogue, lifelong learning, and exploration of self and world
- **Sustain** strong families and create multigenerational relationships that value all
- **Invite** and promote questioning, curiosity, and religious freedom

From September through June, we offer Religious Education programs during Sunday services for Pre-K through 9th Grades, and Sunday evening programs for 7th through 12th Grades. 8th and 9th Grade classes may run until 11:30 and students should follow their teacher's directions regarding Time for All Ages attendance.

Worship, community building, and social justice activities are integral aspects of the MLUC religious education programs. Changes are sometimes made on Sundays to accommodate the population in attendance.

Each Sunday service includes a Time for All Ages, when teachers, children, and families are together with the rest of the community for a portion of our Sunday worship in the sanctuary. This is a special time when younger members of our community are brought into the circle of those gathered to worship in the manner of Unitarian Universalist congregations—becoming familiar with the traditions and rituals of our faith. We encourage families to bring children to a Time for All Ages at an early age.

Children are welcome to use activity packets (found outside the sanctuary doors) if desired, to keep hands busy and minds alert. Nursery care is available for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers during this time if needed. After the Time for All Ages, the congregation sings to the teachers and children as they depart for their classes or other programming.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

First, third, and fourth Sundays: Story for All Ages in the sanctuary, then RE classes

Second Sundays: Story for All Ages, then 6th-9th to class. PreK-5th to Children's Chapel/ Faith in Action, in the McGinness Room

Fifth Sundays, when they occur: Story for All Ages in the sanctuary, then RE classes

***Note:** There are several special Sundays when we have Multigenerational Worship. During these Sundays families stay together in the sanctuary throughout the service. Check E-Notes for schedule changes.



3 and 4-Year-Olds

Celebrating Me & My World

This class celebrates the wonder of being a special person; the delight of a world full of living things and elements; and the security of knowing that many different kinds of people love and help each other. Simple rituals such as a sharing circle, story time, exploring, and closing are repeated each week.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Spirit Play

Based on the work of Maria Montessori and Jerome Berryman, UU religious educators have adapted their ideas into a unique learning environment called Spirit Play. Each session is based around a shared story. Through story, our children learn about Unitarian Universalism and its history, and develop an underlying sense of the spiritual and the mystery of life. Wondering questions and hands-on exploration encourage independent thinking. This year's stories focus on the Promises (Principles) of Unitarian Universalism.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Our Whole Lives (OWL) (before or after services in Winter)

Our Whole Lives helps parents in their jobs as primary sexuality educators. At this age level OWL focuses on proper names for body parts, differences between genders, and ends with a basic understanding of where babies come from. Parents are included through home links in all that is explored with the kids—opening opportunities for healthy conversations with our young children about personal safety.

2nd and 3rd Grade

Spirit Play

Based on the work of Maria Montessori and Jerome Berryman, UU religious educators have adapted their ideas into a unique learning environment called Spirit Play. Each session is based around a shared story. Through story, our children learn about Unitarian Universalism and its history, and develop an underlying sense of the spiritual and the mystery of life. Wondering questions and hands-on exploration encourages independent thinking. This year's stories focus on the Sources of Unitarian Universalism.

3rd Grade

Stepping Stones (before or after services in Spring)

This is a rite of passage for our children in building their growing UU identity. Stepping Stones helps them understand in more depth—the adventurous and creative Unitarians and Universalists who have shared their talents with the world. At the end of this four-week program, they will be recognized in worship and have the opportunity to become an integral part of a worship service in the life of our congregation.

4th and 5th Grade

Harry and UU

Back by popular demand, Harry and UU is a social action curriculum for grades 4-5 based on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books. Through the themes in these books that closely relate to the seven principles, children are immersed in the idea that one can work to make the world a better place. This curriculum has meaningful sources and projects that are relevant to children, and in turn, keeps them engaged.

4th and 5th Grade

Our Whole Lives (OWL) (before or after services in Spring)

This eight-session program helps 4th-5th graders learn about and discuss the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Along with their parents, children read *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie H. Harris, which examines topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision-making. Each session includes a HomeLink—a homework activity for parents and children to complete together.