

RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

2011-2012



CEDAR LANE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

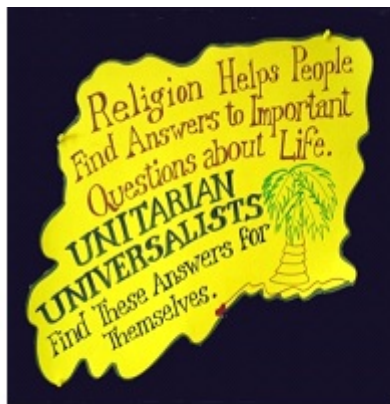
Welcome to our religious education program for children and youth!

Children learn and grow in so many ways! We at Cedar Lane work to provide a warm and supportive community of Unitarian Universalist faith in which children and youth can mature spiritually, intellectually and ethically. We understand ourselves to be a community of learners, all of us on a lifelong path of personal discovery, of religious and spiritual growth, of human “becoming.” Our teachers, mentors and advisors are volunteers, carefully invited into this most important work.

In addition to the subject matter of each course, our program seeks to inspire wonder and wondering, empathy and compassion, truth searching and decision-making. We hope that we will all experience what it means to belong to a local community of caring, as well as what it means to be a part of a world community.

I look forward to continuing adventures together and deepening our connections!

Susan Davison Archer
Minister of Religious Education



Welcome to Cedar Lane’s religious education (R.E.) program! It’s not just our children who are involved in the R.E. program at Cedar Lane! There’s an important role for you to play as an adult, whether you’re brand new to the church, or a returning or long-standing R.E. parent.

Your participation in R.E. is instrumental to the program’s success and the behind-the-scenes work of the Religious Education Council, which we co-chair. The R.E. Council is a group of eighteen adults and two teen advisors. We work with Rev. Susan Archer, Youth Group Advisors, and our R.E. Administrators, Gale Ginther Luce and Jeannette Wilson, to plan, implement and oversee the religious education program. The Council meets monthly to plan and organize church-wide activities such as Holiday Craft Day, Spring B, the Teacher Appreciation Dinner, and other social and community events. Council members are also liaisons to our volunteer teachers and room parents. Members serve three-year terms, and the Council is known for its enthusiastic and dedicated membership.

Cedar Lane’s R.E. program provides children with a religious education that helps them develop a sense of self-worth and a sense of belonging in the community. We recognize that Cedar Laners, especially new families, sometimes find it difficult to feel connected to this large congregation. Many parents find that their participation in the R.E. program is the most important factor in helping them feel that Cedar Lane is their family’s religious home. There are a variety of opportunities for you to make this connection.

Read the Family Volunteer Form and choose the activities in which you’d like to become involved. You will be contacted by an R.E. Council member for help as that activity nears. Get to know your child’s teachers and the other parents in your child’s class. Regular Sunday attendance helps to develop strong bonds in the church.

Please contact us with any thoughts or concerns about your child’s religious education at Cedar Lane. We look forward to assisting as you and your family connect with our R.E. program and other families this year.

Sincerely,

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Religious Education Council Co-chairs

GOALS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT CEDAR LANE

The following religious education goals embody the vision we have for our program and are guides for the curriculum choices that are made for each age group. Our curricula encompass all of our goals, but each class has a major focus on one or more objective(s). Under each goal (below), we have listed the curricula that address that goal. Our religious education program goals are to help people to:

1. Develop a sense of self worth

- Babies, Toddlers, Three Year Olds
- Chalice Children
- DUSO (Developing an Understanding of Self and Others)
- Haunting House
- Treasure Hunting
- A Stepping-Stone Year
- Our Whole Lives
- You and UU
- Senior Seminar

2. Develop an appreciation of religious, ethnic and cultural diversity

- Treasure Hunting
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Bible
- A Growing-Up Year
- Junior Seminar
- Senior Seminar

3. Develop a sense of belonging through participation in the Cedar Lane faith community

- Junior Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir
- Worship
- Teacher assistants
- Youth groups
- Social responsibility projects
- Spring B
- Marker celebrations at grades 4, 6, 9 and 12

4. Develop an appreciation of something larger than the self, and a sense of responsibility toward others and the environment

- Social responsibility projects
- A Growing-Up Year
- Junior Seminar
- Our Whole Lives
- You and UU
- Senior Seminar

5. Develop an identification with Unitarian Universalism and our religious heritage

- Chalice Children
- Treasure Hunting
- A Stepping-Stone Year
- A Growing-Up Year
- Junior Seminar
- Our Whole Lives
- You and UU
- Senior Seminar

6. Ponder and celebrate the mysteries of life by participating in worship experiences

- Chapel worship
- Family services
- Classroom worship
- Intergenerational services
- Outdoor gatherings and campfires

7. Feel guided and supported in the development and expression of personal religion in everyday life

- Haunting House
- Treasure Hunting
- A Stepping-Stone Year
- A Growing-Up Year
- Junior Seminar
- Our Whole Lives
- You and UU
- Senior Seminar

REGISTRATION

Our religious education program is a cooperative venture, planned and implemented largely by volunteer R.E. Council members, teachers, advisors, assistants, administrators and chapel leaders, supported by behind the scenes “elves” who cook, set tables, wash toys, clean up, telephone, shelve books, lead Holiday Craft Day workshops and assist in other special events. In this way we share in our children’s experiences while building our church community. We ask each family enrolling children to help by pledging, and by signing up on the Family Volunteer Form. Please return the registration materials (available by email, on the web, or from the R.E. office) to the R.E. office by July 30, 2011.

Each year our religious education program is generally successful in placing your child(ren) in the session you have requested during registration. However, due to the need to limit, or raise, class size for both learning and community building, not every registrant’s first choice can always be accommodated. Families registering early are more likely to get their “first choice.” The staff and the R.E. Council appreciate your understanding and support in this matter. Thank you.

To register, you will need to complete and return the following. Your registration is not complete without all required forms.

Nursery and Preschool Classes	Grades Kindergarten to Grade 5	Grades 6-12
Registration Card Family Volunteer Form Health and Safety Form* Code of Ethics	Registration Card Family Volunteer Form Health and Safety Form* Code of Ethics Year-Long Permission Form	Registration Card Family Volunteer Form Health and Safety Form* Code of Ethics Year-Long Permission Form Contract

* Make copies for each child

Visitors are very welcome and may obtain a guest slip at the administration table in the lower lobby before attending class. Children need to be officially registered to continue participation after three visits.

FINANCIAL

RESPONSIBILITY

We ask parents to make a financial contribution to the church. With the dedication of its participants, our program continues to be as successful as its reputation. Substantial church dollars are necessary to support it. The average cost of the R.E. program, including staff, facilities, and materials, well exceeds \$700 per child per year. We need families to financially support this and other programs of the church in a responsible way. If you need a pledge card, contact the church administration office. In cases of financial hardship, please contact one of the ministers. We welcome all.

TEACHERS

Teachers minister to our children by example and deed. They are a caring presence enabling new learning and religious growth.

Each year parents and non-parents alike volunteer to join teaching teams. Our Minister of Religious Education, the mentoring teachers and the Religious Education Council provide guidance in classroom management and curriculum, and help with additional resources. We try to pair new teachers with experienced ones. Teachers can turn to our ministers, R.E. Council members, experienced teachers and other resource persons, including room parents, for additional support.

Teaching is a cooperative effort. Experience is not necessary and newness to Unitarian Universalism or to our church should not hinder you. If you bring a nurturing spirit and a deep sense of caring for youth to the classroom, you will find that you gain as much as the students from the teaching experience.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF CEDAR LANE

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship, and play a key role in fostering development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurturing, care and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential is to be realized. There are no more important areas of growth than those of self worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. It is critical that leaders not engage in sexual, seductive, or erotic behavior with children and youth, or in their presence. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior that constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

When you sign the Code of Ethics, in your registration materials, you agree to conduct yourself in accordance with this code and the laws of the State of Maryland.



RESOLVING CONFLICTS BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The religious education program at Cedar Lane has a commitment to teaching the values of cooperation, team work, and accepting responsibility for one's actions as an integral part of the written curriculum. When needed, the following procedure should be used to resolve conflicts that may or may not involve specific children.

Step 1a: Parents should address their concerns directly to teachers; teachers should address their concerns directly to parents. Discussions should take place away from the children in the class, and at a time when the teachers are not stressed by the activities of the class.

Step 1b: Either party may first discuss the issue with the Minister of Religious Education (MRE) to gain an awareness of factors that may be affecting the behavior or policy of concern. Safety concerns are one example where it is appropriate to consult the MRE first, and it is the job of the MRE to put children's safety first, before the feelings of parents or teachers.

Step 2: If the parents and co-teachers are not satisfied with their discussion, they should consult the MRE to reach a resolution. Each problem is considered on a case-by-case basis and all parties must realize that a mutually agreeable decision is not guaranteed.

Step 3: At any point in the process, either party may bring in the appropriate R.E. Council liaison, another minister from the congregation, an R.E. mentor teacher, or the Ministerial-Congregational Committee (which consists of both ministers and lay members). The parties should then schedule a formal meeting to allow all parties to present their concerns. At this meeting, the MRE should record the concerns, any intermediate steps, the ultimate resolution, and give copies of notes to all parties.

SAFETY POLICY

The Unitarian Universalist Principles and our classroom covenant are the foundations for relationships we aim to foster in the religious education program. We are all expected to relate to one another within these guidelines.

HIGHLIGHTS

For children through age ten:

- A parent or legal guardian must be on the church grounds during church school in the event of an emergency.
- Parents of children in grade 4 and younger will pick up children directly from the classroom. Teachers will escort all children from chapel back to their classrooms before dismissal.
- Parents will inform the teachers at the time of drop-off if someone other than a parent will be picking up the child.
- Teachers will not release a child to someone other than a parent or designee. Teachers will not release a child to a sibling without parental permission.

For all ages:

- Have an emergency number on file (on the registration card).
- All parents will sign the Code of Ethics at registration.
- Each year parents will complete a Health and Safety Information form for each child or youth registered.
- Parents will annually complete an Activity Permission Form for each child in grades K-12.
- Parents will annually complete a Contract for each child in grades 6-12.
- Please read the complete safety policy available on the web site or from the R.E. office.

For teachers:

- Our safety policy requires new teachers to complete a screening form which will be used to perform a background check through Oxford Documents, Inc.

If you have a concern:

- Contact our Minister of Religious Education.

OUR CLASSROOM COVENANT

Our mission is to help all our children have a positive religious education experience at Cedar Lane. Classroom covenants and our Unitarian Universalist Principles are guides to how we relate to and treat each other. Our Minister of Religious Education and our mentoring teachers are available to work with new teachers, especially in classes where there may be a child or children with special needs. Conversations between our staff and parents are critical to our success, enabling us to create a positive learning environment for all our young people.

Each class is encouraged to create a covenant among its children and teachers. We expect each class will talk about the following, in age-appropriate ways, as their covenant is created.

I HAVE A RIGHT to be treated with kindness and respect in this room.

- This means that no one will laugh at me, ignore me or hurt my feelings.
- This means that I will be kind to others, include others and be considerate of the feelings of others.

I HAVE A RIGHT to be myself in this room.

- This means that no one will treat me unfairly because I am fat or thin, fast or slow, male or female.
- This means that I will treat others fairly, even if they are different.

I HAVE A RIGHT to be safe in this room.

- This means that no one will hit me, kick me, push me, pinch me, tease me or harass me.
- This means that I will protect others from harm.

I HAVE A RIGHT to hear and be heard in this room.

- This means that no one will yell, scream, or shout, and that my opinions and desires will be considered in any plans we make.
- This means that I keep my voice down.

- I will listen to others and include their views in our plans.
- I will speak up about my opinions and desires.

I HAVE A RIGHT to learn about myself in this room.

- This means that I will be free to express my feelings and opinions without being punished.
- This means that I will hear what others say.
- I will respect the difficulty we all have in learning who we are.
- I will participate in the program.



PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Our religious education program is a cooperative effort. You, as parents, play a significant role in the religious education of your young people. Your active participation is encouraged as we share this important responsibility. Here are some of the ways you can help.

Arrive on time and come regularly. Children develop a sense of belonging by attending regularly. Let the teachers know if a child will be absent. Be on time to pick up younger children.

Dress children in play clothes. We often learn by doing! Save special clothes for services on non R.E. Sundays.

Introduce yourself to your children's teachers. The MRE and teachers are happy to hear from you. Look over the available literature and follow the activities of your child's class. Provide snack if asked.

Spend time together at Cedar Lane. Attend children's chapel and make a special effort to be with your children at intergenerational celebrations. Your presence and participation are appreciated. Our children learn to worship by worshiping with us.

Parents will be asked to help. We ask that you budget your time to include volunteering at Cedar Lane. All teachers are volunteers. If no teacher is available, parents may be asked to set up a co-op. Parents may also be called to help in the classroom at various other times. In addition, all families are asked to volunteer for specific jobs that help make the entire R.E. program run smoothly. (These are described on the Family Volunteer Form.)

Attend parent meetings and events. Some meetings may be required. They are designed to help you and your child. We know that you are the primary religious educators for your children. It is our responsibility to support you and your children as they make their way through the R.E. program at Cedar Lane. In return, we ask for your support and time. Social gatherings will enhance your family's connections.

Share your point of view. Let your children know your thoughts, opinions and values. Be patient with them and with yourself as you grow in mutual understanding.

Review the Safety Policies. See Safety Policy in this booklet, as well as the Safety Policy pamphlet.



2011-2012 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

September 10	Teacher Orientation
September 11	Ingathering Service for All Ages at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
September 18	R.E. classes start
October 16	Service for All Ages, NO R.E. classes
November 20	Service for All Ages*
December 3	Holiday Craft Day
December 10	Holiday Program and Potluck, 5:00 p.m.
December 18	Service for All Ages*
December 24	Christmas Eve Services: 4:30, 6:00 & 10:00p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day, NO R.E. classes
January 1	No R.E. classes
January 8	R.E. classes resume
January 15	MLK Service for All Ages, NO R.E. classes
January 29	Teacher Renewal
February 19	Service for All Ages*
February 24	Teacher Appreciation Dinner
March 18	Service for All Ages* and Teacher Recognition
March 31 - April 2	9 th grade Boston Trip
April 8	Easter Sunday Service for All Ages; NO R.E. classes, Egg Hunt
April 15	<i>A Growing-Up Year</i> Presentation; Spring B registration begins
April 21	Ninth grade Coming-of-Age service and dinner
April 22	<i>A Stepping-Stone Year</i> Ceremony; LAST RE CLASSES
April 29	Spring B begins
May 6	High School Seniors' Service and lunch
May 20	Spring B ends; All-church Picnic
May 27	"Passages" Service
June 3	Flower Communion Service for All Ages
June 8-10	All-Church Retreat
June 10	Summer R.E. Program begins

*Children gather in the sanctuary with their families for the first part of the service, then proceed to their classes.

THE PROGRAM PRESCHOOL

Each child must plumb vastness and infinity. Let each call it what s/he will - fire, water, death, God, worlds, stars. Somehow s/he must share the curiosity and the awe before s/he has too many static answers. More than factual answers s/he needs communication of his/her inherent wonder, fear, curiosity.
- Sophia Fahs

Our aim is to provide a comfortable, secure and loving environment for our youngest children. We want children to feel good about themselves so that they may respond to their world in a wholesome, positive way. In a warm and empathetic atmosphere, our preschoolers will be encouraged to explore relationships with others and discover more about themselves and their world. Parents who have children who are babies through age five may be asked to help on a rotating basis. If there is low registration, some preschool classes may be combined.

BABIES, TODDLERS, THREE YEAR OLDS

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Our youngest children are cared for in a warm and loving atmosphere through the cooperative effort of parents and teenage assistants. Simple toys, picture books and music are a part of their environment. As they grow, their group experiences opportunities for developing independence, group play, and ways to share. Through familiar stories, art, puzzles and music, children begin to develop new skills and competence and to feel at home at Cedar Lane. The simple lighting of the chalice is an introduction to ritual. Nature is explored. Particular curricula will be used based on the ages of the children registered in the program.

CHALICE CHILDREN

Four year and five year olds

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

This UU preschool curriculum is based on the premise that children learn best through experience. It will nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community through activities and simple rituals.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

...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 social participation – all these put together are the curriculum through which these children learn.

- Elizabeth Manwell and Sophia Fahs

DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING OF SELF AND OTHERS (DUSO)

Kindergarten **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Through stories told by DUSO the Dolphin, children will learn to value diversity, appreciate similarities and differences and explore feelings. Games, art and role playing are designed to encourage cooperation, understanding of self and others and connections to the Cedar Lane community.

HAUNTING HOUSE

Grade 1 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Why do houses fascinate us? What are houses for? Why do we love them? Children, parents and teachers explore the universal need for a home – a place of solitude, of friends gathering, of dreaming, of memory building. Within the “haunting house,” there is an opportunity to explore relationships, share stories, discover the natural world and talk about important religious questions, including birth and death. The class includes an important parent meeting that deals with the sexuality and death units. A highlight is creating each child’s cardboard house.

TREASURE HUNTING

Grade 2 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

The aim of this program is to involve children in the excitement of the search for meaning in life at the concrete level of their understanding. While the curriculum was written to focus on our seven principles, it is also designed to build a sense of acceptance and support within the class community itself, where our principles are lived out and learned deeply. Learning is built into crafts, games, songs and stories. There will also be a focus on getting to know our own Cedar Lane community. This a very active curriculum to match the high energy of our second graders.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Grade 3 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Festivals and holidays are the natural and age-old vehicle for religious celebration and socialization. Through ritual observances, we will learn about the memories, beliefs, values, fears and hopes of people everywhere. By understanding the religions of the world and their holidays and holy days, we make a connection with people everywhere. “Under the sky all people are brothers and sisters.”



UPPER ELEMENTARY

One condition for religious freedom is exposure to more than one way of thinking and believing. The ability to grant such freedom requires in the educator a respect for children's ability to think and a trust in the power of the truth.

- Sophia Fahs

A STEPPING-STONE YEAR

Grade 4 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**
Religion helps people find answers to important life questions and to discover that some questions do not have answers. In this beginning course about Unitarian Universalism, we listen to the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of others; learn about famous Unitarian Universalists, and begin to make connections between the worlds of science, wonder and religion. The year culminates with a special ceremony during chapel.

BIBLE: TIMELESS THEMES

Grade 5 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**
This material is designed to give our young people an understanding and appreciation of our Hebrew and Christian Biblical traditions. The stories and themes are an introduction to the rich literature and ethical issues that are basic to our culture. Each person brings a Bible to class, learns about its roots, and how to use and discover the rich content within its covers.



MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

For young people to find their own sovereign sense of being is necessary to taking on the wisdom of humanity. There are times...in which we are strong, and there are times...in which it is hazardous for us to go it alone....(We) need to have support for one another in our low moments and on the other hand, have outlets for strength when we are strong.

- Angus MacLean

A GROWING-UP YEAR

Grade 6 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**
During this transition year, our young people focus on the process of growing up, becoming a religious person, studying our Unitarian Universalist Purposes and Principles, and learning about some of the people who put these principles into action. There will be discussions about moral and social issues and at least one social action project. There will also be exploration of some other faith communities in the D.C. area, as we discover similarities and differences to our own. This year culminates with a passages ceremony in a spring Sunday worship service in the sanctuary.

JUNIOR SEMINAR

Grade 7 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**
This course focuses on UU identity: the ways UU's create community, our tradition of good works, and our principles. It also includes opportunities to learn about social justice and to participate in social justice work.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

Grade 8 **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.**
In a safe, supportive peer group setting with specially trained leaders, our young people will have the opportunity to explore values, sexual language, respect, gender issues and roles, responsible sexual behavior, friendships, anatomy, media messages, sexual orientation, love making and much more. The goal of the curriculum is to nurture healthy, loving relationships with others. Parents must attend the orientation sessions. To provide the best learning environment, gender balance and class size are carefully monitored during registration. Rapport, honesty and trust are developed when young people attend class regularly. Regular class attendance must be a high priority.

YOU AND UU

Grade 9

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

This introductory course to our Unitarian Universalist heritage offers a chance to explore the beginnings of Unitarian Universalism, articulate personal beliefs and make connections between the two. During the spring break, the class makes a pilgrimage to Boston and vicinity to explore our UU roots. The course culminates with a special Coming-of-Age service and dinner celebration.

SENIOR SEMINAR

Grades 10, 11 and 12

11:00 a.m. ONLY

Senior Seminar will explore a variety of topics of interest to youth to continue to build foundations for helping shape personal beliefs and actions. Watch for mailings with information about both the fall and spring semester offerings. One winter-spring option for grades 11-12 will be "Our Whole Lives" (Senior High level sexuality curriculum), an opportunity to explore issues that are critical for nurturing healthy loving relationships.



TEENAGE ASSISTANTS

Often teenagers gain as much from guiding others as they would from enrolling in the religious education program itself. We expect volunteer teacher assistants to attend class during one session of religious education, and help during the other. Continuing experiences with their peer group enhances their religious growth and integrates them into the Cedar Lane community. Teens who want to assist in a class are invited to participate in the fall teacher orientation session and the teacher renewal in January. Assistants must be at least in 7th grade.

YOUTH GROUPS

Youth group schedules are available on the church website at www.cedarlane.org, as is updated information. Information about events is mailed and/or emailed to parents before the events. Call the RE office at 301-493-8300 x207 with questions, or for updates.

The Youth Activity Group (Grades 7 and 8), with advisor John Daniel and other adults, meets regularly on evenings and weekends throughout the year. Activities include: movie and pizza nights at the church; "movies@the mall"; a retreat at Camp Tockwogh; Manna Food Packing on the fifth Tuesday of a month; a ski trip; caving; river rafting and more. Truly fun and rewarding for youth and adults!

The Senior High Youth Group (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12) meets with the coordinator of youth ministry and other adults for special events from September through May. Activities include a retreat at Camp Tockwogh, a ski trip, a UU food drive for Thanksgiving, district youth conferences, a Super Bowl party, and a variety of other opportunities for socializing, service and social justice advocacy.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The religious education program is designed to encourage our young people to develop a sense of social responsibility and to take action to influence change. Our young people help with projects of the UU Service Committee as well as other activities to benefit people in need and our precious earth. Students are encouraged to generate their own ideas of how they can improve our world and the health and well-being of its inhabitants. Direct action projects are given priority. Recent projects have included serving meals for homeless people, parkland improvements, filling pillow cases with toiletries and stuffed animals for children entering the foster care system, support for animal shelters, fund raising for alternate holiday giving programs, and others.

WORSHIP

Worship is what we do when we come together to celebrate the community and all that is of worth in and around us. It is also a time for us to acknowledge our struggles and hopes. During these times together we acknowledge our heritage, share our values and affirm who we are and what we believe.

Our worship is enhanced by music, quiet reflection, stories, sharing and simple rituals.

There are many opportunities for children to worship:

- in the classroom with their teachers
- with the “community of children” in the chapel (grades K-6)
- with the intergenerational community in the sanctuary
- when our high school seniors lead a service
- when our 9th graders participate in a “Coming-of-Age” ceremony
- at special holiday services

Special chapel services include Succoth, Pumpkin Homes for Light at Halloween, St. Lucia’s Day, Chinese New Year, the Stepping-Stone Year class ceremony, and others marking religious and cultural celebrations.

There are also several services in the sanctuary for all ages throughout the year. While childcare is available for our youngest, we encourage families to come together to our Ingathering, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas Eve, Martin Luther King Day, Passages, Senior High Graduates’ and Flower Communion services. See the R.E. calendar in this booklet for dates.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

It is our goal to have our program available to all young people. If children have special needs, we want to know about them so that we can make arrangements to meet their needs. Parents are the most knowledgeable about their own children; we appreciate your communication with us. Our staff, including mentoring teachers, are available to help.

CHOIRS

In our youth music ministry, children have a unique opportunity to learn about music, singing, and contributing to a worship service. The vocal choirs lead worship by singing rounds, hymns, chants and part songs, while the handbell choirs ring familiar songs, hymns, and original works written especially for handbells. Throughout the year our young musicians are learning and reinforcing basic musicianship, proper singing and ringing techniques, and participating as part of a team. Choir members hold their ensembles as a source of pride and look forward to leading Sunday worship services, performing at the annual RE Appreciation Dinner, and in special celebrations such as the Spring B picnic. Our choirs also create an environment where younger children learn to emulate those who are older, and where older youth become leaders and role models.

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings in the Sanctuary. The Junior Choir is open to third to fifth graders; Youth Choir is open to sixth to twelfth graders. The Bell Choir is open by audition to fourth graders and up.

SPRING B

Spring B is an intergenerational event; it meets for the four Sundays before Memorial Day weekend. Spring B creates opportunities for children, youth and adults to meet new friends and share across the generations. The groups and classes promote new learning, explore new ideas, and teach new skills. Regular R.E. classes do not meet during Spring B.

We publish the Spring B brochure of classes and activities in April.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our summer R.E. program provides these opportunities from mid-June through Labor Day.

For Ages Five and Younger: A nurturing playtime to encourage a sense of belonging and “at-homeness” in our faith community.

For older children: Most summer worship services are appropriate for older children. Information about each service can be found at www.cedarlane.org.

STAFF

Rev. Susan Davison Archer, Minister of Religious Education
Gale Ginther Luce and Jeannette Wilson, Religious Education
Administrators

Senior High Youth Coordinator

Rev. Evan Keely, Senior Minister

Rev. Heather Janules, Associate Minister and Minister for Pastoral Care

Dr. Henry Sgrecci, Jr., Youth and Bell Choir Director

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Co-chairs: Nancy Enderby and Teresa Eyet

Chris Black

Rebecca Bond

Julie Buchanan

Lesley Carlson

Linda Daniel

Lynn Goldman

Katherine & John Green

Vanessa Jones

Barbara Mazer

Emily Mellgren

Celia Nathan

Lyn Penniman

Katie Spurlock

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