

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Religious Education Year!! We are looking forward to providing a caring, educational, spiritually enriching and playful religious education program this year. Our program is staffed by loving adult who feel religious education is one of their ministries. Please let me introduce our 7th-8th Grade team for this year:

Our Whole Lives Facilitators	Neighboring Faiths Teachers	Neighboring Faiths Assistants
Jan DeWaters	Jeff Frank, RE Networker	Helen Hutchinson
Kelly Johnson-Eilola	Karen Bage	Mary Michalek
Jim Williams	David Bradford	Debra Mitchell
Our Whole Lives Assistant	Desiree LeBoeuf	Lorraine Olendzenski
Debra Mitchell	Rajiv Narula	Julie VanDuyne

For this year, our middle level youth will split their year between Our Whole Lives and Neighboring Faiths. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a UU lifespan sexuality education program that helps participants gain knowledge, values, and skills to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives. Neighboring Faiths introduces youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in our community.

There are a few things we ask of you to help make this year enjoyable and safe.

- Please register! A new registration form needs to be completed every year.
 - Register by visiting our online form at <http://www.uucantonny.org/youth/re-youth-registration-form/> or complete a form that is available in the Religious Education (RE) office.
- Our program begins on Sunday, September 17, 2017 and ends on June 10, 2018. We provide a summer program beginning on Sunday, June 17 and ending September 2, 2018.
- Children attend the worship service until they are sung out for religious education classes around 10:45am.
- Our weekly religious education program **ends at 11:45am**.
- The OWL/Neighboring Faiths group will meet upstairs in the 3rd floor room off the social room.

Here are a few important dates to remember:

RE Fun Days	Special RE Events	Multigenerational Worship Services
November 26, 2017	February 25, 2018 Faith in Action	October 29, 2017
February 18, 2018	March 4, 2018 Everybody's Birthday (during Social Hour)	December 17, 2017 Holiday Pageant
May 27, 2018	April 15, 2018 Faith in Action	December 24, 2017
	May 6, 2018 RE Sundae Sunday (during Social Hour)	December 31, 2017
	May 20, 2018 RE Sunday Rehearsal	March 4, 2018
	June 3, 2018 RE Sunday Rehearsal	April 22, 2018
		June 10, 2018 RE Sunday

If you are looking for Adult Faith Formation, please consider joining a [Chalice Circle](#) or participating in our [Coffee, Conversation and More](#) (CC&More) program. Chalice Circles are a way to deepen your spiritual practices as Unitarian Universalists. They are small groups (10 people maximum) who meet monthly to share stories and personal journeys. The CC&More program meets (2) Sundays a month at 9:15am in the Romer Room and covers many interesting topics. This ministry is sponsored by the Social Action, Environmental Action, Library, Welcoming and Religious Education Committees.

Thank you for entrusting your child(ren) to the care of our religious education ministry team. We encourage you to participate in whatever way you see fit, to ask questions, voice concerns, or share praise at any time. We look forward to a wonderful church year!

In joy and faith,

Carol Zimmerman

Director of Religious Education

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