

High School  
RE Calendar 2016-2017

9/11	Intergenerational-RE Open House & Registration
9/18	
9/25	
10/2	
10/9	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
10/16	
10/23	
10/30	
11/6	
11/13	Intergenerational: Leaf Raking Sunday
11/20	
11/27	
12/4	
12/11	
12/18	Intergenerational- Christmas Pageant
12/25	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
1/1	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
1/8	
1/15	
1/22	
1/29	
2/5	
2/12	
2/19	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
2/26	
3/5	
3/12	
3/19	
3/26	Intergenerational: RE Spring Sign-Ups
4/2	
4/9	
4/16	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
4/23	
4/30	
5/7	Intergenerational: Music Sunday
5/14	Intergenerational: Affirmation
5/21	
5/28	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
6/4	
6/11	RE Sunday & Picnic Celebration

Discipline Policy

Participants in the Religious Education (RE) program are notably respectful, attentive and positive contributors to activities. Occasionally, however, discipline problems arise. In response to several requests, the RE Committee has discussed policies with a number of parents and teachers; the following policy is now in effect.

**"Discipline problems" are defined as:**

**\*Any violent act**

(hitting, throwing objects)

**\*Ongoing repeated behavior**

(swearing, constant disruption/disrespect)

A sequential pattern is recommended for handling discipline in the classroom: Ignore, Eye Contact, Gently Call the Child's Name, Involve them in the lesson, Remind them of Rules, Move Closer to them, Pause the Lesson to Redirect. If the child continues to misbehave, the RE Director will be called to assist in the classroom; If the child needs to leave the classroom, he/she will sit with the RE Director and parents will be notified of behavior.

RE Committee

Bethany Knoettner

Megan Kane

Andrea Flaherty

Jen Scarano

Lynn Neild

Jenn Smagula

Erin Nielson

Nicole Tracey (RE Director)

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Religious  
Education

First Parish Church United  
Westford, MA

High School  
Grades 9-12  
2016-2017

*Discussion Group meets in the  
Dining Hall Kitchen  
Volunteers & Guest Speakers are welcome  
and encouraged!*

## High School Curriculum Info

As part of our commitment to on-going spiritual growth, a monthly high school group meets with a facilitator during the regular RE class time. The meeting is a discussion based format through which our youth can share their reflections, insights, and questions on a number of topics ranging from what goes on in worship, what goes on in the world, what goes on in their own lives, and what spirituality or religion has to do with any of it.

The goals are to get students thinking about their own lives and those of people around them and to have an honest discussion on a topic and explore ideas that are not always easy to talk about.

The hope is that sharing, in an open discussion, will have a positive influence on decision-making and connectedness.

Any student in high school is welcome to attend these Sunday morning gatherings. On Sundays when the group does not meet we welcome the participation of high school students to volunteer in the nursery and/or teaching younger grades in RE. Community Service hours will be documented for those who need them.

## Discussion Group Meeting Dates

The group meets seven times throughout the school year, usually towards the end of the month in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. The exact dates are mailed out in the first letter to all high school students in early September. If you are the parent of a high school student, and you do not receive a letter by mid-September, please email Karin Drowne at [karindrowne@gmail.com](mailto:karindrowne@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list.

## Possible Discussion Topics

The topics we discuss are as varied as the people who make up the group, and they are always different each month. Over the years, we've talked about things such as: gambling, alcohol, guns, tobacco, legal and illegal drugs, offensive statements, prejudice, FOUND, nicknames, recycling, setting free 21 balloons, creativity, homelessness, and making the "right" decision. In addition, every year we have some fun with "Shock Poetry", where the high school students create poems from words provided to them, similar to magnetic poetry kits. The output of this exercise is always something amazing.

## Service Learning

This year, we would like to incorporate more activities that break away from the discussion format and reach out to our church community & the larger community outside of church. This included things like helping out with lessons for the younger RE grades, community service projects (collecting and sorting donations to local charity), or planning and organizing church events. In addition, we are hoping to have a retreat (or two)- some sort of overnight, mission-driven opportunity. If these types of programs interest you more than discussion groups, please don't hesitate to be involved; you don't have to be a regular HS discussion group attendee to join in- all are welcome, the more the merrier! Bring along a friend, too!

## Other Important Info

All information about the high school discussion group is distributed through a monthly newsletter, which is addressed and mailed to each student. Again, if you are a high school student or parent of one, and you do not receive your first letter by mid-September, please email [karindrowne@gmail.com](mailto:karindrowne@gmail.com) so you can be added to the distribution list. High school students are also welcome to bring their friends to the discussion, even if they do not attend First Parish. The only requirement is that they be in high school. Finally, our discussions are filled with lots of good treats such as cookies, Danishes, and juice, so bring your appetite!