

RE Calendar 2017-2018

9/10	Intergenerational-RE Open House & Registration
9/17	
9/24	
10/1	Traditional Communion: 4th-12th remain in worship
10/8	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
10/15	PK-5th World Religion workshop
10/22	
10/29	Intergenerational Service
11/5	Alternative Communion: 6th-12th remain in worship
11/12	Intergenerational: Leaf Raking Sunday
11/19	
11/26	
12/3	PK-3rd Holiday Lesson- Advent Wreaths Traditional Communion: 4th-12th remain in worship
12/10	PK-5th Holiday Lesson- Hanukkah
12/17	Intergenerational- Christmas Pageant
12/24	PK-5th Holiday Lesson- Christmas
12/31	
1/7	PK-5th Group Lesson Alternative Communion: 6th-12th remain in worship
1/14	
1/21	PK-5th Social Justice workshop
1/28	Intergenerational Service
2/4	Intergenerational-Communion Service
2/11	
2/18	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
2/25	
3/4	Intergenerational-Drumming Service
3/11	
3/18	
3/25	PK-5th Holiday Lesson- Passover
4/1	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
4/8	
4/15	PK-5th Group Lesson
4/22	
4/29	PK-5th World Religion workshop
5/6	Intergenerational: Music Sunday
5/13	PK-5th Group Lesson / Affirmation
5/20	
5/27	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
6/3	Traditional Communion: 4th-12th remain in worship
6/10	RE Sunday & Picnic Celebration

Getting Started...

Children can be registered for the program beginning Sunday September 10, 2017 and any time after that. Classes start Sunday September 17, 2017 and run through June 10, 2018. Visiting friends and relatives may always join in with age appropriate classes. We ask that families complete a registration form before dropping their child(ren) off in RE class.

RE Committee:

Jen Scarano (chair)
Kara Mason
Erin Nielson
Nicole Tracey (RE Director)
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Welcome to Religious Education A Cooperative Program

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Westford, MA

Program Overview 2017-2018

Here at FPCU, we delight in the lifelong journey of spiritual growth & development. In addition to worship, fellowship, outreach and committee activity, we offer Religious Education (RE) programs. Our program for Nursery Care through High School is a cooperative one, classes are facilitated and assisted by volunteers that include high school students, parents to children in the program, and other adults who love to work with children in this capacity.
Please sign up!

Curriculum Philosophy & Overview

FPCU is affiliated with both the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association. We believe RE classes should present religious content and knowledge with sensitivity to the diversity of belief that is present in our congregation. We encourage families to discuss the lessons with their children and help them to see the lesson through the family's own belief structure. The Religious Education Committee is committed to providing meaningful lessons that educate our total church community (children, teens and adults). Our liberal RE program embraces the three threads that weave our program together:

1. The Judeo-Christian Heritage, which is taught in the primary grades through Bible stories and exploration of important holidays. The primary grades also include a study of our denominational affiliations- the UUA and the UCC.

2. Comparative World Religion: Our Youth Group program spends some time focusing on the many religions in the world today. By examining and comparing various religions, and visiting local places of worship, students are able to expand their understanding of others and of themselves. Our primary grades are also introduced to a world religion each year through workshops and various activities .

3. Social Consciousness, which runs throughout all grades. Church and community outreach projects provide children with the opportunity of putting their faith into action. These range from local needs (e.g. leaf raking & food pantry donations) to supporting global organizations (e.g. Heifer Project & Habitat for Humanity) in an effort to relieve suffering around the world.

Class Time

RE classes for children in PK through Grade 5 meet most Sundays, during the worship hour. Everyone gathers together at the start of worship in the Sanctuary, then children are invited to leave for RE class during the second hymn. Adults should walk their child to class, stay as long as needed, and then come and pick them up once the service is over. Children will remain in classrooms until they are picked up by a parent/guardian. Lessons are non-sequential, so students don't need to attend every Sunday to keep up.

We value family worship time and plan intergenerational services throughout the year. At these times we are blessed by the enlivening presence of the children for worship!

Special Programs

There are approximately 3 WORKSHOPS each year; two focusing on a World Religion and one focusing on Social Justice. There are also a number of group lessons and holiday lessons planned throughout the year. Group Lessons & Workshops allow for great hands-on learning, cooperation and team work amongst the children PK-5th grade.

* The **World Religion workshops** focus on the world religion of the year; they expose children to the different traditions and customs and teach them about the beliefs of that religion. Through stories, visual aids, activities and crafts the children learn about the ways of others; relating to the similarities in their own lives while recognizing and appreciating the differences as well. **This Year's**

World Religion Focus: Sikhism

* The **Social Justice workshop** focuses on applying Christian & UU values, recognizing current issues/events, helping others & making a difference. The lesson that takes place helps the children gain a better understanding of the issue/event at hand and helps them to appreciate the importance of values-theirs and those of others.

* **Group Lessons** are flexible and fun. They occur on long holiday weekends and on the Sundays of each school vacation week. The lessons revolve around a theme, usually seasonal based-not necessarily religious-focusing on the time of year or a specific holiday that is near.

* **Holiday Lessons** are based on a specific holiday and focus on how that holiday is celebrated. This year's Holiday Lessons include: Advent, Hanukkah, Christmas Around the World, and Passover/Seder.

RE Highlights

Christmas Pageant: (12/17) RE students get dressed up and act out the story of Christmas

Affirmation: (5/13) 8th grade students are affirmed during a worship service that they create & lead

RE Sunday: (6/10) RE students lead worship, sharing everything they learned in RE classes throughout the year

RE Offering

A collection basket is passed around at the start of each RE class. The RE offering is separate from the Church Offering, as the RE students get to vote on where their offering goes! The offering is split 50/50, going to an out-reach program and an in-reach gift for the church. Out-reach programs in the past have included The Heifer Organization, and Lutheran Services for New Americans: Backpack Drive, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity. In-reach gifts in the past have included the swing and slide structure in

the Nursery, and helping towards the compensation of our Nursery hire. You're continued support is greatly appreciated.