

BYCC Curriculum Descriptions

2023-24

Sunday Mornings @9:30 AM & 11 AM

PreKindergarten: The Rainbow Connection

A central concept of Unitarian Universalism are the values that all congregations affirm and promote. These values are considered to be strong moral guides that each of us may use to guide our lives. Although preschool children are too young to memorize the exact language of each value, we can begin to acquaint them with the ideas behind them. We can focus on the attributes inherent in each.

The Rainbow Connection uses story books for preschoolers to discuss those values inherent in Unitarian Universalism, helping preschoolers to explore the values that unite us as UUs.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade: Creating Home

Creating Home helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. Together with their peers, the children will ask questions about the purpose of having a home and the functions a home serves, for us as humans and for other animals. They will learn to speak of home as a place of belonging and explore the roles each of us play in the homes where we live. The program introduces the concept of a "faith home"—our congregation—which shares some characteristics with a family home. Like a family home, a faith home offers its members certain joys, protections, and responsibilities.

2nd & 3rd Grade: Signs of our Faith*

Rev. Peter Morales asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. *Signs of Our Faith* guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalists love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world.

***This program will also be used for our K-5th Grade One Room Schoolhouse @9:30AM.**

4th & 5th Grade: Windows and Mirrors

In spirit, we embrace the contribution of diversity to our collective ability to pursue truth, fairness, justice and love. In practice, however, we often fail to embrace all the experiences and viewpoints in our communities as respectfully or as wholly as we might. Sometimes, we fail to even see differences among us. We seem most prone to gloss over differences when to

acknowledge them requires acute self-examination and may lead to pain, shame, discomfort or guilt. *Windows and Mirrors* nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about, and respect those of others. The sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters.

Sunday evenings @6 PM

6th & 7th Grade: Crossing Paths

Crossing Paths is about UU Identity-building, not just interfaith learning. We want youth to leave the program with a deeper and more clear understanding of their own faith. Crossing Paths is rooted in religious pluralism. Put simply, this view treats every religion as a unique system. Some models of interfaith engagement emphasize the unity or commonality of all religions. This view might be summed up by the phrase “One Mountain; Many Paths.” This perspective argues that there is a fundamental shared goal behind all religious traditions. They are seen as different paths toward the same goal or purpose. This is not the perspective of Crossing Paths.

Crossing Paths celebrates each faith’s *unique* aims and ends. Every world faith tradition was born in response to a distinct human struggle. We believe we honor religions best when we work to understand the *particular challenge* and aspiration to which each religion has devoted itself. So instead of using the metaphor of “One Mountain; Many Paths,” Crossing Paths invites us to see the religious landscape as “**Many Mountains**, Many Paths.”

8th Grade: Our Whole Lives

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer *Our Whole Lives (OWL)*, a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities. Beacon offers OWL at 1st, 5th and 8th Grades.

Interactive workshops and activities engage participants, while step-by-step instructions for program planners and facilitators help ensure success. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior. With a [holistic approach \(PDF\)](#), Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.