

## SpiritPlay Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

*SpiritPlay* is a storytelling religious education program. During each class, the storyteller relates a story while presenting visual cues (small objects or pictures) to the children as a way to help them remember the story.

Following each storytelling, the children are encouraged to interpret the story through art expression or revisit past stories. Included are legends from many different faith traditions, creative expressions of our Unitarian Universalist principles (introduced as “promises”), and tales of our UU ancestors.



## Crossing Paths 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

In *Crossing Paths* our adolescents will explore various religious traditions with an emphasis on both the diverse forms and the diverse aims of the traditions. Instead of claiming that one religion is better than others or that all religions are really the same, this view understands religions as separate systems of belief dealing with distinct human challenges.

Each month the class will explore a different religious or faith tradition. Using mountaineering metaphors, the adolescents will “map the terrain” where they learn the basics of that month's faith tradition. They will then collect the “tack” or gain an awareness of how that religion and Unitarian Universalism are similar and different. The class will then “summit the mountain” with travel to visit the faith community and/or interview a member of that faith. The final week is “Lake Sunday” where they will have the opportunity to reflect on and discuss the visit and all they have learned that month.

This approach is distinctly Unitarian Universalist. One sees it most clearly in the “Six Sources” we covenant to affirm and promote. From our beginning, Unitarian Universalists have looked to our sibling faith traditions as each having something unique to offer us and the world. Crossing Paths invites us to explore those unique gifts more deeply.

## Heeding the Call / Principled Music 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

*Heeding the Call* is a series of workshops that offer a unique opportunity to engage youth in the critical work of developing skills as Unitarian Universalists committed to social justice. The workshops encourage youth to reflect on their own lives while also making connections to the lives lived by others. The program uses real-life examples of people facing the complexities of living lives of justice. The youth are encouraged to become Justice Makers by learning together, listening together, laughing together, working together, and heeding the call together.

In the spring, the youth will learn how music and social justice have always had close ties.

*Principled Music* uses popular music from the 1960s through the present as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of social justice topics. At each class, songs on a particular topic are listened to, along with a copy of the lyric sheet. After listening, the class will engage in discussion and activities, using the lyrics of the songs as a launching point. Topics will include racism, civil rights, bullying, homophobia, gender stereotyping, income inequality, and war.

*Through our Children's Religious Education programming, we seek to endow our youth with the confidence to travel on their unique spiritual journeys and establish a lifelong dedication to our Unitarian Universalist community.*

**Our Teachers** – Our teachers are dedicated volunteers from the congregation who enjoy sharing with and learning from our community's youth. Please contact the Director of Religious Education if you are interested in participating in this unique volunteering opportunity.

**Children's Religious Education Committee** – The Children's RE Committee meets with the DRE on the first Sunday of each month. The Committee consists of teachers, parents, and congregation members who come together to support and assist with the RE program, provide suggestions, and address concerns.

**Director of Religious Education** – If you have any questions regarding the UUCSJS Children's Religious Education Program please contact the Director of Religious Education, Jessica Dunn Safonof, at 609-965-9400 or by email at [uucsjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:uucsjsdre@gmail.com).

**Register Your Child** – To register your child for our RE classes please visit the Children's Religious Education page at [uucsjs.org](http://uucsjs.org).



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**Children's  
Religious Education**



Classes and Curriculum

Fall 2018 / Spring 2019