

# PATHWAYS

**A Handbook for UUCB Families**



## **Program Overview**

**Who we are:** Unitarian Universalists (UU's) are a diverse and welcoming association of independent churches and fellowships who believe in the worth and potential of every individual. We do not follow a creed but believe in every person's right to evolve his or her own spirituality throughout life. We believe that we never stop learning and growing. Each UU church determines its own plan for the religious and spiritual education and exploration of its children, youth, and adults using materials developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and other sources.

**What we teach:** We are a liberal religious community that respects all people (community building), honors the teachings of all major religions (world religions), values peace and justice and practices conflict resolution (social justice), works to preserve the planet (environmental justice, web of life), and values our original roots (Jewish and Christian heritage, UU history).

**Program Offerings:** Our RE year coincides with the school year. We offer Religious Education (RE) programming and nursery care mid-September through early June. Program offerings include:

- Sunday morning RE workshops (aka Sunday School) for PreK-grade 6
- Nursery care for children under 4
- Youth programs for grades 7-12
- Intergenerational events, activities and worship services
- Multi-age activities and projects for PreK-grade 6
- Parent Book Groups

**Our Teachers and Program Leaders:** Our volunteer leaders are often parents of children in our RE program, but some are grandparents or other adults from our church. We believe that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner. We are always looking for folks to serve as leaders and assistants in our classes and programs. If you would like more information on serving our church in this way, please contact the Director of Religious Education.

**The Religious (RE) Education Committee:** The RE Committee works with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to plan and facilitate classes and activities for children and youth, select curriculum, recruit volunteers, and form RE policies and goals. The committee meets monthly, September through June. We would welcome your presence as a member. If you are interested in finding our more information or in joining the committee, please contact the DRE or the RE Committee chair, Jean Lay.

**How Parents Contribute to the RE Program:** We have a cooperative volunteer program that only thrives with the involvement of each parent. Please sign up for one or more of the following tasks during the year:

- RE Guide
- Assistance with an intergenerational event or activity
- Leader or assistant for a workshop activity

- RE Committee Member

Please contact the DRE for more details regarding these volunteer opportunities.

### **Sunday Morning RE Classes**

*Sunday Morning Schedule:* RE classes, workshops, and nursery care are provided during the service September through early June. The nursery is open at 9:45 and nursery staff arrives at 9:50. On the rare occasion when nursery staff must call out sick and we cannot find a substitute, the nursery will be open but unstaffed. Parents are invited to use the nursery during the worship service as needed. The worship service can be seen and heard from inside the nursery. With the exception of nursery age children, everyone typically begins Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. After a story or presentation geared toward children, the RE leaders and children will be dismissed to their classes or workshops in the RE area. This generally happens around 10:15. We have four Sunday morning RE groups divided by the following grade levels: PreK-K, 1-3, 4-6, and 7-12 (youth group). RE programs end at 11:15. Most weeks parents have a little time to gather for coffee or other beverages during hospitality hour following the worship service before RE classes end. Children in the PreK-K and 1-3 age groups must be picked up by a parent at 11:15. Children in grades 4-6 will be released from their classes to find their families at 11:15. Parents are responsible for their children before and after RE programming. Youth group meetings occur on most Sunday mornings that RE classes are scheduled. Please refer to the paragraph below for a link to the Sunday schedule on our website.

### **Curriculum**

Our program runs on a three-year curriculum rotation: 1) World Religions, 2) Unitarian Universalist History and Identity, and 3) Social & Environmental Justice. This year we are exploring World Religions. Beginning this year we are using a workshop model for programming with the 1-6<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday mornings. Each month the RE program will have a topic and a story of focus. The 1-6<sup>th</sup> graders will explore these topics and stories in different ways through workshops each Sunday of that month. RE "Guide", an adult volunteer who is part of a team of people assigned to each age group, leads the opening ritual. After the opening ritual (about 5-10 minutes) the group will participate in a workshop activity led by a volunteer from the congregation. Depending on the workshop and the numbers needed for a specific activity, the RE age groups will participate in activities together or separately. The workshops will vary and will incorporate art, music, drama woodworking, movement, and more. Some examples of upcoming workshops this year are: cooperative games, screen printing, cider pressing, yoga, pottery, building meditation benches, book making, creative movement, and making food for the local shelter. The PreK-K Group and the Youth Group will also be using the monthly topics to guide their programming. The PreK-K group explores the larger theme and topics through picture books, simple craft activities, and lots of play. To see the topics and stories for this program year, along with the Sunday schedule, please click [here](#).

## **Registration and Safety Information**

**Registration Forms:** Those that participate in RE programs on a regular or semi-regular basis must fill out a registration form. Registration forms allow us to keep track of attendance, disseminate program information, monitor allergy and other health issues, and to be aware of other individual needs of program participants. You can fill out a registration form online [here](#) or on Sundays at church.

**Registration Fee:** We ask families to pay a yearly registration fee of \$20 per child or a maximum of \$50 per family. There are registration scholarships for any family that would struggle to pay this fee. Please speak to the DRE if a scholarship is requested. The registration fees go toward our RE budget of art supplies, snack, volunteer training, and intergenerational events and parties.

## **General Church Info**

**Minister:** Reverend Sylvia Stocker

**Director of Religious Education:** Nicole Boutilier

**Church Administrator:** Shirley Bernier

**RE Committee:** Jean Lay (chair), Melissa Fochesato, Kate Phenix, Cathey Cyrus, Sienna Dode, and Nathan Haynes

**Website:** [www.uubrunswick.org](http://www.uubrunswick.org)

**Street Address:** 1 Middle Street, Brunswick, ME 04011

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 129, Brunswick, ME 04011

**Email:** [uubrunswickdre@gmail.com](mailto:uubrunswickdre@gmail.com) (DRE), [uubruns@gwi.net](mailto:uubruns@gwi.net) (church administrator)

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