PANDEMIC PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The 2020-2021 church year our vision of religious education is focused on equipping families with resources to engage in faith formation at home. This takes a variety of forms, including at-home materials and Zoom-based programs and events. Read below to see the groups and events we offered from 2020-2021.

Sundays

Children’s Chapel, 11:15 a.m.–Noon

Children’s Chapel is a dynamic space, where elementary-aged children can experience age-appropriate worship and spiritual practice with their peers and parents, while also exploring who they are in this world. This includes music, sharing of Joys and Sorrows, stories, and cooperative activities and games. This year, Children’s Chapel will be focusing thematically on experiences of Wonder and Awe, and race and racial identity.

Children’s Chapel is open to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade and their parents and siblings. To join, please contact Aria Curtis at aria.curtis@uuchurch.org.

Youth Chapel, 11:15 a.m.–Noon

Youth chapel provides age-appropriate worship and companionship to students from 6th-12th grade. This participatory service provides centering, ritual, and opportunities to spiritually deepen through reflection, games and art.

Youth Chapel is open to youth in grade 6 through 12. To join, please contact Melody Moberg at melody.moberg@uuchurch.org.

Offline (non-Zoom) Opportunities
Traveling Chalice Box

The Traveling Chalice Box includes an altar cloth, a special chalice, a book of readings and poems, Hollis the Hedgehog, and a journal to record their activities in. Each week the Traveling Chalice Box will go to a new family and children will be invited to share about the adventures and learning they did with Hollis the Hedgehog on Sundays in Children’s Chapel.

Onsite Family Chapel

This is an opportunity for UUC families to see one another, check-in, and experience important Unitarian Universalist rituals together, onsite and outside at our church home. This Family Chapel will include a chalice lighting, joys and sorrows, grounding body meditation, and a special activity or two. This opportunity is available twice per month, on a Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Please note: This event is limited to 5 families and will last no longer than 45 minutes. Masks are required and we’ll stay outside for the event’s entirety. In order to ensure that children have an opportunity to see their church friends, this event is open only to families with children in RE.

Ongoing Groups

Parent Covenant Group

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 8:30-9:30 p.m. via Zoom
Open to parents with children in RE of any age and is open to drop-ins
The Parent Covenant Group will meet via Zoom to share about and discuss parenting with a UU lens, parenting in the pandemic, child development, fostering joy, rituals, media and more.
Fill out this form on UUC Connect to let Aria know you’ll be coming and to receive the Zoom link.
Parents of Preschoolers Covenant Group

**Meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. This group is open to parents of infants-1st graders**

The Parents of Preschoolers Covenants Group will use the materials provided by Jen Shattuck in the *POP!* curriculum to support parents of preschool-age children in navigating parenthood, developing relationships with other UUC parents with children of the same age, and nurturing and sustaining your spirit. We’ll also discuss other topics like, child development, social development and mental health during the pandemic, and more.

The Parents of Preschoolers Covenant Group is **not open to drop-in visits**, but parents are welcome to join at any time throughout the year. After signing up with this form, you’ll receive an email from Aria with information about the next meeting, the group covenant, and any other materials you might need.

**Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators**

Sundays, October 4–December 13, 2020, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

In a small group setting, adults explore their roles as the most important sexuality educators their children will have.

Ten sessions invite parents and caregivers to explore their role as the primary sexuality educators of their elementary through teen age children. The 90-minute sessions use a small group ministry format to engage adults in topics including Gender Identity, Relationships, Social Media, and Consent.

This group is open to parents of children of all ages. Unitarian Universalist Congregations are discouraged from offering Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education in an online-only format. Because we are not able to offer OWL for 8th grade students this year, parents of current 8th graders are strongly encouraged to enroll in this class.

To join Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators, please sign up through UUC Connect by clicking [here](#).
Anti-Racism Parent Book Group
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month beginning on September 20, 2020, 8:00–9:30 p.m.

This covenantal book group invites parents and caregivers to explore raising children through anti-racist lens. Like the Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators group, this Anti-Racism Parent Book Group uses a small group ministry format to explore race and parenting. We’ll start by reading So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo, then Why Are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria by Beverly Tatum.

Special Holiday Events
About once a month, in hour-long sessions, families are invited to learn together about the world’s religions and traditions through the lens of holidays. Participants will explore the common values and questions present in religious traditions from around the world.

These specially scheduled events are open to UUC members of all ages and center the learning and experience of children and youth. For more information, please contact Aria Curtis aria.curtis@uuchurch.org

- Friday, September 25, 2020, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?
- Saturday, October 31, 10:00–11:00 a.m.: What do Samhain, Dia de los Muertos, and Halloween all have in common?
- Friday, November 13, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What is Diwali?
- Friday, January 15, 2021, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What is Martin Luther King Jr. Day?
- Friday, February 12, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What are Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday?
- Friday, March 26, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What is Holi?
- Friday, April 16, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What is Earth Day?
- Friday, May 7, 7:00–8:00 p.m.: What is Eid al-Fitr