

- *it's important to accept one another and keep on learning together*
- *each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life*
- *all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them*
- *it's important that we all work for a peaceful, fair and free world*
  - *and we all need to care for our planet earth, the home we share with every living thing.*

*-Adapted from Helena Chapin and Mary Ann Moor,  
High Street Church, Macon, GA*

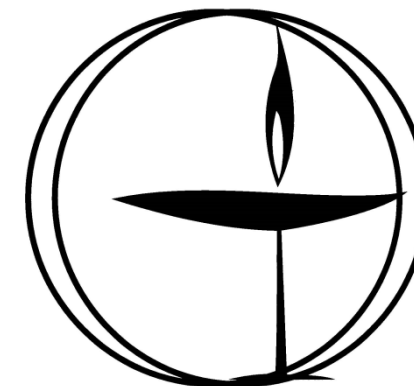
*We're glad YOU are here! ~CRE Team*



# Family Handbook

Religious Education for Children & Youth

**2013-2014**



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola  
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# A Welcoming Program

Greetings, and welcome to the Children's Religious Education at UUCP  
and our *WAYCool* Sunday School program!

Children's Religious Education at the Unitarian Universality Church of Pensacola (UUCP) offers your children and youth the opportunity to learn about Unitarian Universalism through study and practice; to learn about neighboring faith traditions; to develop friendships with other young people and adults; to sing; to participate in children's chapel; and to experience worship in the sanctuary.

We consciously respect and nurture all individuals, regardless of cultural heritage, social class, gender, body type, abilities, philosophy, or any other individual characteristics. Our teachers and the Children's Religious Education (CRE) Team are dedicated to assuring a welcoming atmosphere for all individuals and families. This means that all of our programs – including the CRE program – welcome and support people of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning identity. We welcome families of all types, sizes and spiritual leanings.

We strive to:

- ✓ Treat all families with respect.
- ✓ Openly discuss issues of sexual orientation and other individual characteristics, in age-appropriate language, in order to build understanding and trust among our community members.
- ✓ Include in our class covenants the request for respectful action and words at all times.
- ✓ Welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please speak with the CRE Coordinator, CRE Team, Minister, and any of our other leaders for more information.

*Ways to keep informed* about CRE programs include: reading the CRE page in the monthly UUCP newsletter, *The Light*; reviewing emails from the church office with announcements about upcoming events of the week; and asking CRE Team members or teachers.

Children sometimes play outside on the playground during Sunday school or after church. All children or youth must be supervised on the playground.

## Field Trips

Children who attend a field trip or leave the church premises must have written permission from parents/guardians. The teacher will obtain your written permission if your child might be leaving the church with the class under adult supervision. Only children who are registered in CRE may be transported with a parent present.

All drivers will have a valid driver license and current vehicle registration and insurance. Younger children must ride in an appropriate child booster seat, and all other passengers must wear a safety belt. If a driver is under the age of 18, children may ride with them only with written permission from their parent/guardian.

## Illness

Please keep your children safely at home when they have a fever or communicable illness, or if they are in noticeable distress. We want to provide an environment of health and well-being for all our children.

## Q & A

If you have questions or concerns regarding these policies, please see the CRE Team or the CRE Coordinator.

## *Unitarian Universalist Principles*

### *Child-Friendly Version*

*We believe...*

- *each and every person is important*
- *all people should be treated fairly and kindly*

for which childcare is provided. Please pick up your children promptly at 11:15 a.m. if your family is not staying for a scheduled program.

- Toys with small parts are dangerous to small children, and therefore are not allowed in the Nursery. Plenty of age-appropriate toys are provided for our infants and toddlers to play with.
- Children with evidence of contagious illness, such as thick mucus or fever, will not be permitted into the Nursery.

#### **Attire**

Please dress children in play clothes. Save special clothes for All-Ages Services when they may sit with their family in the sanctuary or for other special events. Children need to feel free to explore and play actively, and sometimes messily! Walking shoes, casual pants, and t-shirts are often most comfortable for Sundays.

#### **Snack**

Wholesome snacks are provided for our children and youth from 11-11:15 a.m. each week in the Rain Forest Room while adults are having their coffee and snacks. CRE snacks are donated, often by other parents. If your child has special dietary needs, please alert the teachers on your Registration Form and/or the Sign-in Sheet. Donations of healthy foods such as fruit, cheese, crackers and granola or cereal bars are always joyfully accepted!

#### **Medical Alerts**

If your child has a medical condition or is taking medication that we should be aware of, please alert the teachers on your Registration Form and/or Sign-in Sheet.

#### **First Aid**

A First Aid Kit is kept in each classroom and on top of the refrigerator in the kitchen.

#### **Building and Parking Lot Safety**

Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their children before and after CRE sessions and at any time that childcare is not explicitly provided. All young people are expected to be in a CRE class or in the sanctuary during Sunday morning services. Children and youth should not be left alone in the building or in the parking lot without supervision.

#### **Playground**

# CRE Goals

## Children & Youth...

... engage in meaningful exploration of our Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola (UUCP) community through simple interactions with their surroundings.

... develop a sense of our UU identity and a personal commitment to living our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

## Families...

...connect with one another and what their children are learning.

## Fellowship...

...is created by children, youth, and adults interacting in meaningful ways.

## 2013-14 CRE Teachers

### Children's Chapel

*Leaders:*  
Lauren Anzaldo

Nursery Staff  
Tabbitha Manznet

### Wanderers

Penny Featherstone  
Kate Wolverton

Adventurers  
Calhoun Stallings

### Youth Pathfinders

Substitute Teachers  
Scott Satterwhite  
Donna Harwell

# You Make a Difference

Introduce yourself to class leaders and CRE team members, and feel free to ask questions about our program and community. When families build strong relationships with teachers, they learn about what the children are exploring through the CRE program and how they can extend the experience at home.

We are a cooperative community. Once you've checked us out and decided you'd like to be part of our fellowship, we'll help you find ways to get involved that suit you best. The success of our program depends on a diverse set of skills, talents, and shared ideas.

**There are so many ways to contribute to our children and youth programs!**

- ⇒ **Substitute Teacher**
- ⇒ **Volunteer Nursery Assistant:** Assist the paid Nursery Provider during Sunday service on an occasional basis.
- ⇒ **Snack Coordinator:** Get provided snacks ready and delivered to the Rain Forest Room for snack time just before the end of the Sunday service.
- ⇒ **Children's Chapel Assistant:** Assist the Chapel Leader with songs, activities and general supervision, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.
- ⇒ **REGroup Leader:** Lead a fun all-ages activity from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- ⇒ **CRE Team:** Participate as a member in planning children's programming. Meetings are once a month.
- ⇒ **Community Service Leader:** Help lead Social Action/Community Service projects for children & youth.
- ⇒ **Special Outings & Field Trips:** Be a volunteer for the family campouts, a driver/chaperone for field trips or lock-ins during the year.

## Bringing Guests

We love meeting your friends and family! Please feel welcome to tell your friends, colleagues, and neighbors about our liberal religious programming, and invite them to attend with you. UUCP is the only Unitarian Universalist congregation in the Pensacola area, and we are happily growing to include many new families and individuals. When you bring young guests to CRE classes, please use the Sign-in Sheet and alert the teachers to the presence of a guest.

TBD	Trunk or Treat / Overnight at church
October	Day of the Dead Service for All Ages**; Potluck
November 24	Thanksgiving Service for All Ages**; Potluck
December 1	Thanksgiving Weekend (Multi-age Activity)
December 15	Winter Holiday Service for All Ages**; Potluck
December 29	Holiday Weekend (Multi-age Activity)
January	ML King Service for All Ages**; MLK Parade Prep
February 9	Valentine Service for All Ages**; Potluck
March 16	Celebrating Spring Service for All Ages**; Potluck
April 20	Easter Service for All Ages**; Egg Hunt
April	Family Camp-out at Big Lagoon State Park – Date TBA
May 11	Mother's Day Service for All Ages**
May 25	Memorial Day Weekend (Multi-age Activity)
May 18	Last Chapel for year; End-of-Year CRE Ice Cream Social

*\*\* All children, not in the nursery, are to sit with their parents for service in the sanctuary.*

## Registration

If you haven't already registered your children for CRE for the 2012-13 church year, please fill out a registration form, available under Lifespan Education at [www.uupensacola.org](http://www.uupensacola.org).

Registration in CRE is important, even if you and your family are not ready to join UUCP. Parents or legal guardians of children and youth who regularly attend UUCP's CRE programs must provide certain basic information by filling out an annual registration form. We need your registration in order to get an accurate headcount for the classes, to have information on special concerns such as dietary restrictions or allergies, and to get your up-to-date contact information so we can stay in touch with you about our wonderful programs and upcoming events. One form can register up to five children. This data is provided to your child's CRE teacher and then kept on file by the CRE Ministry Team.

## Health & Safety Policies

We at UUCP are concerned with the health and safety of all of our children, in addition to their spiritual growth and religious education. The CRE Team has developed guidelines to ensure a safe and healthful environment. Please become familiar with the following:

### Nursery

- Our nursery is staffed from 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m. for those attending Sunday services and from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. when an after-service program is scheduled

# Holiday Services for All Ages

While children and young people are welcome in church services anytime, some young ones would rather participate in the other activities we offer while the “big kids” are in the church service. Services for All Ages provide children and youth the opportunity to join their families in a church service in our sanctuary. Services for All Ages are usually scheduled in conjunction with special events or holidays and typically include music and messages that are engaging for young people. Activities such as coloring pages are provided to keep little hands and minds quiet and busy during the service. Nursery is still available for young ones not yet ready to sit through an hour-long service. Services for All Ages are often followed by potlucks and fellowship that allow children to be immersed in the UUCP community.

## Multi-age Activities

On Sundays when holidays or other activities result in low attendance at church, children and youth from all age groups (except nursery) are combined in a single class for an activity during the church service. Multi-age Activities usually take place in the Rain Forest Room. These activities usually include a craft project, games or free play and only occur four times throughout the program year. Multi-age Activities are the standard programming for the summer while many families are traveling and visitors are common.

## REGroups

REGroups stands for Religious Exploration Groups. When they are scheduled, these groups occur immediately after the service from 11:15 am-12:15 pm. REGroups provide participants a chance to explore and discuss issues in a small group format. Multigenerational REGroups are open to all ages but are specially designed with younger people in mind and are offered whenever REGroups are taking place after the service so that parents/guardians have the choice to attend and be involved in our church community.

## Annual Events

We encourage UUCP families to get to know each other and enjoy our fellowship.

Consider participating in any of the following events:

August 18	Water Communion Ingathering Service for All Ages**; Potluck
August 25	First Children’s Chapel of the new program year!
September 1	Labor Day Weekend (Multi-age Activity)
October 4 - 6	Family Camp-out at Big Lagoon State Park
October	Peace Fest

## UUCP Staff

Rev. Julie Kain, Minister	850-475-9077	revjulie@uupensacola.org
Audrey Preston, Office Administrator	850-475-9077	uucp@bellsouth.net
Sarah Stubbs, CRE Coordinator	850-475-9077	mssarahstubbs@gmail.com

UUCP website: [www.uupensacola.org](http://www.uupensacola.org)

## CRE Team

Lauren Anzaldo	laurenanzaldo@gmail.com
Rose Jansen	rosejansen@yahoo.com
Donna Harwell	bunnyharwell@earthlink.net
Calhoun Stallings	calhountree@yahoo.com
Sarah Stubbs	mssarahstubbs@gmail.com

## Nursery

We’re so excited about the terrific and experienced adult caregivers on our nursery staff. **Tabbitha Manzanet** is our Nursery Provider. She is committed to working in the nursery every Sunday with few exceptions, and they’re also available for childcare on other occasions. Please go by and introduce yourself!

Our youngest children, 4 and under, are cared for in a warm and loving environment. The nursery is located in the Meadow Room in the south hallway. Parents are always welcome in our nursery. We ask that you please take the time to help your children feel comfortable in their environment, and bring any special items that may ease the transition. Promptly inform Emily or Caroline of any special care, including medical needs or foods that your children may require. You may also bring a bottle or sippy cup and snack if you choose.

Our nursery is open every Sunday from 9:45 a.m.-11:15 and until 12:15 p.m. when there are after-service programs. Please honor Tabbitha’s time by picking up your child promptly.

# CRE Programs

CRE offerings rotate from week to week during the program year. The program year runs concurrent with the school year (usually mid-August to late May/early June). The schedule includes WAY Cool Sunday School classes, Children's Chapel, All-Ages Services, Multiage Activities and REGroups. When you arrive at UUCP, please find the CRE Tree next to the table in the lobby. It will remind you where your children should be that Sunday. All children will be picked up from the Rain Forest Room at 11:15 am unless the family is staying for an after-service activity where childcare is provided.

## WAY Cool Sunday School Classes

Our preschool through 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes run from 10-11 a.m. on Sunday mornings during regular church services during the program year. Classes are grouped by age and ability so each child is appropriately challenged. Below are explanations for each class group.

### Wanderers (grades Pre K- 2)

*Children are ready to move up from the nursery into the Wanderers group when their family feels they are ready to be in a 4- to 7-year-old environment. Please speak with one of our CRE Team members if you are considering "graduating" your child up from nursery care.*

The Wanderers meet in the Beach Room in the south hallway next to the nursery. This year, the Wanderers will focus on our Unitarian Universalist values using the national UU Association's professionally developed curriculum *Stories About God*. Children in the Wanderers class will learn about a variety of God images that are in harmony with our UU principles. **Ask Penny or Kate about the curriculum at any time!**

Parents are welcomed to stay with their Wanderer during a child's first few visits. We have found that children engage with class activities, acclimate to the routine, and bond with peers and teachers more smoothly when parents allow them to attend CRE by themselves. If you have visited and are concerned about whether your little one is ready to "fly solo," feel free to discuss a plan with the teachers and/or the CRE Coordinator.

### Adventurers (grades 3-6)

The Adventurers meet in the Rain Forest Room in the east hallway next to the kitchen. Sunday school class for the Adventurers 2013-2014 will focus on FAIRNESS. Each class will include a chalice lighting, a time to share, a reading and a doing, using Unitarian Universalist support resources such as UU & Me ed. B. H. Williams and Spirit Games, by Barbara Sher. Each lesson will center around a word: Friendship, Always, Involve, Religion, Now, Energy, Spirituality, Spirit. As each class will build on the previous class, children are encouraged to attend them all. However, classes can be appreciated as an isolated experience, friends and visitors are welcome.

### Youth Pathfinders (grades 7-9)

Popcorn Theology takes the concept and popularity of movie night to explore issues of theology and ethics for Unitarian Universalists. Each session has a selected excerpt which lasts approximately 15 to 20 minutes to allow for the one-hour RE format. The original Popcorn Theology for Youth curriculum uses movies rated PG or PG-13 to explore theological and ethical issues with middle school or high school age youth.

## Children's Chapel

About once a month, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, children and youth from all age groups (except nursery) gather for a special, age-appropriate chapel service. Chapel usually takes place in the library in the northwest corner of the church. Children's Chapel offers young people a chance to sing, laugh, share Joys and Concerns, tell and listen to stories, and practice respectful group behavior. Chapel also helps young people develop an understanding of and respect for our Unitarian Universalist principles and a reverence for the spiritual elements all around us. Chapel takes place from 10 - 11 a.m. during Sunday service.