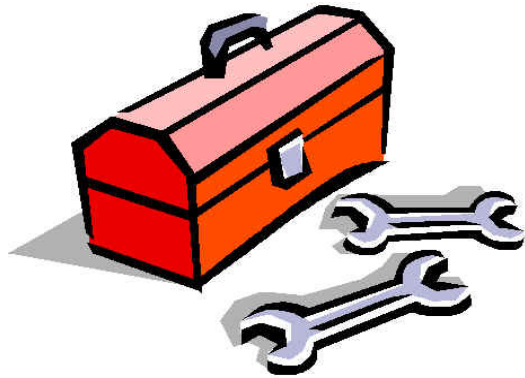


Religious Education Program
2009-2010

Toolbox of Faith

This 16-session series invites participants to reflect on universal religious values such as integrity, courage and love as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own spiritual journeys. Each of the 16 sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight).



Classes begin Sunday, October 4th, 2009 at 11 AM. For more information or to register your child, please call Religious Educator Eric Wilden at 215-247-2561 or email religioused@uurestoration.us.

UU Principles

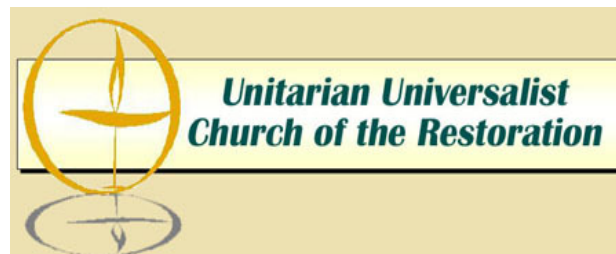
There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

- * Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- * Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- * Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- * Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- * Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- * Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.



Building a
"Toolbox of Faith"
for Children of
All Ages



Religious Exploration
at the
Unitarian Universalist
Church of the
Restoration

6900 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215-247-2561

WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR CHILD EXPECT FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT UU CHURCH OF THE RESTORATION?



FUN

THE "TOOLBOX OF FAITH" PROGRAM GIVES CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT FAITH VALUES IN A WAY THAT WILL ENGAGE THEM AND THAT THEY WILL FIND ENJOYABLE. BUILDING THEIR OWN "TOOLBOXES" WILL HELP THEM DEVELOP CURIOSITY ABOUT AND TANGIBLE SYMBOLS FOR THE UNIVERSAL VALUES THEY LEARN.

EACH CLASS INCLUDES BOTH GAMES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE AND CHALLENGE STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS.

SPECIAL CLASSES AND FIELD TRIPS WILL ALSO BE OFFERED DURING THE YEAR, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH A DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

COMMUNITY

THE "ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE" CLASSROOM SETTING AT RESTORATION ALLOWS CHILDREN TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER ACROSS AGE GROUPS AND TO SHARE THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH PEERS. EACH SESSION BEGINS WITH AN OPENING THAT WILL HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND VALUES IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

EACH CLASS ENDS WITH A "COUNCIL CIRCLE" THAT INCORPORATES RITUALS OF REFLECTION, SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS, AND A CLOSING. SHARING, REFLECTING, AND LISTENING ARE IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS SKILLS TO CULTIVATE WITH OUR CHILDREN.



FAITH IN ACTION

THEMES FROM THE "TOOLBOX" WILL COME ALIVE FOR STUDENTS WHEN THEY ACTIVELY EXPRESS THEIR FAITH VALUES THROUGH SHORT- OR LONG-TERM PROJECTS THAT ENGAGE THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION. SOME EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE CANNED FOOD DRIVES, CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENTS, OR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS.



TAKING IT HOME

FOR EACH "TOOLBOX" LESSON, TEACHERS WILL SEND HOME RESOURCES TO HELP FAMILIES EXTEND THEIR CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXPERIENCES.

TAKING IT HOME RESOURCES MAY INCLUDE GAMES, CONVERSATION TOPICS, IDEAS FOR INCORPORATING FAITH INTO THE HOME ENVIRONMENT, AND/OR BOOK OR ONLINE SOURCES FAMILIES CAN USE TO FURTHER EXPLORE SESSION THEMES OR STORIES.