

Where & When

Religious Education activities happen downstairs, below our Great Hall.

Early Childhood and **Junior Youth** begin downstairs at 10 AM.

K-5 children join their parents for the beginning of our worship services at 10 AM, then leave for RE activities after 15-20 minutes.

Early Childhood and Elementary should get picked up at 11:20 and the Junior Youth will rejoin their parents at 11:20.

We have a **service for all ages** approximately once a month. K-8 children join their parents upstairs, and may have an opportunity to participate in our story or other aspects of the service.

Trips, events, and service projects may take place on Friday evenings or Sunday afternoons. Notice will be given at least 1 month ahead of time.



Registration

Please find a registration form at www.uunorthampton.org. Registration forms are also available at the **Society** at any time. Contact the Director of Religious Education, Jessica Harwood, dre@uunorthampton.org with any questions or for a registration form.

There is no cost for USNF Religious Education classes. **The Society welcomes financial contributions from non-members, many of whom make an annual donation or participate in our annual stewardship drive.**

The great end in religious instruction, is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own....In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul; to bring understanding, conscience and heart into earnest vigorous action on religious and moral truth, to excite and cherish spiritual life.

-William Ellery Channing



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of Northampton and Florence**
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 UNITARIAN SOCIETY
of Northampton and Florence

Religious Education



“There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children. One of these is roots and the other is wings.”

-Anonymous

Goals

- Explore and practice the Unitarian Universalist principles, values, and commitments.
- Allow youth to participate in a group and feel the support of the community.
- Nurture spiritual exploration.
- Inspire caring for self, each other, and the world.
- Build self-esteem so youth feel they can make a difference.
- Encourage an appreciation for the natural world.
- Teach about the history of Unitarian Universalism and about neighboring faiths.
- Bring together members of the congregation of all ages to learn and grow together.



Religious Education Events

- Gleaning
- Mindfulness at Pulaski Park
- Trip to Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
- Games night
- Book swap
- Holiday celebrations
- Pop-up Adventure Playground

Early Childhood Program

Crawling Babies through Pre-school

Join our early childhood teacher, Asa Spelman, for child-centered play and exploration. Infants and toddlers are invited to join us for art, play, stories, a chalice circle, and other activities. We offer an age appropriate, safe, and responsible environment for your child.



Elementary Program

Grades K-5

This year, the elementary program will follow the themes of the congregation at large, from justice to mindfulness to hope. Each week, the group will gather as a team, discuss issues related to the topic, and explore them through art, music, games, drama, crafts, trips, and community service. We will learn about ourselves, Unitarian Universalism, our community, the environment, and social justice.

Junior Youth

Grades 6-8

Popcorn Theology

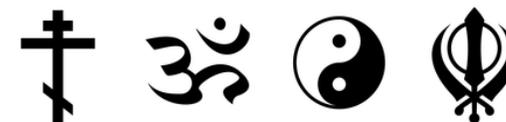
This is a Unitarian Universalist Curriculum that uses popular movies to explore questions of theology and ethics. Youth watch movie excerpts and discuss issues ranging from social justice to building spirituality.

Neighboring Faiths

This year, we will collaborate with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst to visit local places of worship, including a mosque, Quaker meeting house, churches, and temples.

Other Events

Junior Youth will also participate in community service projects, adult worship, and in some social events with the Amherst Unitarian Society.



Youth Group

The Youth Group is open to grades 9 through 12, both for youth that have been a part of USNF for a long time and for newcomers. Together with Adrian Ballou, our Youth Director, as well as adult youth advisors, we share with one another and build community. Our Youth Group is completely youth led and facilitated so youth can grow as leaders and decide what to do in our programming. We explore meaningful questions, learning and growing in our knowledge of spirituality and the world. We engage in social action on issues that are important to us. We plan and participate in worship throughout the year. Come join us for fun, silly games and delicious snacks!