

service for the first half of the program, and sometimes for the entire service. Our youth also host a service each year.

Will our family be accepted? As Unitarian Universalists, we are deliberate in our welcoming of all families and we want you to feel loved, accepted and respected. We believe that diversity is a treasure that enriches us all!

What can interfaith families find here? We are often the “right fit” for interfaith families. We honor major world religious holidays. We hold Seders and have Sahwain festivals and celebrate Christmas. Both Jewish and Christian scriptures, along with the sacred writings and thought of many world religions, form the basis of much of our curricula, for we know there is value in all of them.

How often should we attend church? Both youth and adults enjoy religious education more if they have an opportunity to make friends and know what’s going on. For that reason, regular attendance is important. Sometimes circumstances like shared custody can make one family’s “regular” attendance different from another’s, and sports and other activities can create attendance conflicts. But families must ultimately decide what their priorities are for themselves and for their children.

What are my responsibilities as a parent? Spirit of Life believes that “The Congregation is the Curriculum.” Youth learn values from their parents. Your active involvement, from encouraging regular attendance, to showing an interest in each week’s program and activities, and volunteering your time with the program, is immeasurably important. Additionally, your support in terms of both service and financial assistance is important.

Who’s in charge of the religious education program and how can I learn more? A volunteer Religious Education staff heads the program and provides teaching for all ages, as well as childcare. You can learn more by calling 813-792-1622 and by perusing our Religious Education Handbook.

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to 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.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Visit us online at www.SpiritofLifeUU.org

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Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalists

Lifespan Religious Education Program



Ever mindful of the changing needs of our community, we covenant to:

- Provide Lifespan Liberal Religious Education;
- Nurture and inspire one another;
- Offer support through life’s transitions;
- Raise an unwavering voice for religious freedom and social justice.

18412 Burrell Road
Odessa, FL 33556

813-792-1622

The Mission of Spirit of Life UU Lifespan Religious Education



Our Lifespan Religious Education Program seeks to provide spiritual sustenance for people of all ages. In addition to our services, we have many focused programs to serve the social and spiritual needs of our members. Programs for youth include weekly classes, field trips, and get togethers. Programs for adults include study groups, a book club, our Sunday Morning Perspectives adult discussion program, Buddhist group and more. Everyone can enjoy monthly Pot Lucks, Circle Suppers and a variety of special holiday and cultural activities and events that we celebrate throughout the year.

About our Ministry

Spirit of Life UU believes that Religious Education is an ongoing, life-long process not limited to the confines of a church, but which takes place here and everywhere!

If your goal is to be a loving, accepting and supportive companion to your children and to one another as we all journey through life on our quest for spiritual meaning, Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalists can be your religious base camp, for this is our goal as well.

The mission of our Life Span religious education program for people of all ages is to provide a safe environment in which each child and adult can be a seeker of personal meaning while developing:

- A strong Unitarian Universalist identity,
- A recognition, appreciation and acceptance of the ever-changing nature of spiritual growth and development in our

lives;

- A foundation of values and theological knowledge from a diverse and dynamic tradition;
- The means to meet and respond to life's great questions;
- A strong sense of community with respect for individual differences;
- A capacity for spiritual wonder;
- A feeling of self-worth and dignity.

How We Journey

We believe the goal of religion is a progressive one, helping us evolve spiritually and emotionally in the search for meaning in our lives.

Our religious education program upholds and promotes our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes, and encourages, considers, and respects all religious questions. Curriculum is drawn from materials published by the Unitarian Universalist Association and from the world around us, drawing from traditions of the past, conditions of the present and considerations of the future.

We expose our youth and adults to the beliefs and thoughts of all the World's Religions, with a particular emphasis on our Jewish/Christian heritage, with the conviction that we have much to gain from the value and wisdom of the world's religious traditions as we learn to shape inclusive beliefs that embrace the best of all faiths.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kinds of things will our family learn? We seek to give youth and adults building blocks with which to

articulate their own beliefs. We provide a balanced program of UU identity, Jewish/Christian heritage and world religions, as well as a look at social justice and action issues.

How can you teach without doctrine? Because we believe as notable UU Wm. Ellery Channing wrote, "The great end of religious instruction is not to stamp our minds irresistibly upon the young, but to stir up their own...to touch inward springs." We believe in our inherent spirituality and believe it is our task to nurture members' spirits not to indoctrinate their minds.

How do the youth learn? We know that youth learn in different ways, so we offer multiple approaches to engage their spirits, imaginations and curiosity. We use stories, discussion, games, art projects and music, among other things.

What will our family learn about big religious questions? You will learn that all big questions have many answers, and that we have an individual duty to search responsibly for our own answers. But we also give members a foundation on which to build their values. Members learn that:

- There are as many ideas about God as there are people;
- We hold Jesus in the tradition of the great prophets and teachers, and we learn from the example of his life;
- Death is a mystery inseparable from life, and the only immortality we can know for sure is that which lives in the hearts and minds of those we touch, so how we lead our lives each day is of utmost importance.

Do youth share in the worship service? Yes!! Our youth are integral to our services and remain in the