

# Religious Education at First Parish Universalist Unitarian Canton 2021-2022



## Welcome!

We are glad you are interested in our Religious Education program.

It takes courage to walk into a new space.  
It takes strength to open to the unknown.  
It takes heart to walk the spiritual path.

Thank you for bringing your courage, your strength, your heart, and your whole self to our congregation.

You are welcome here.

## What is RE?

Religious Education (RE) is a program at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Canton (FPUU Canton) that guides children and teens through the process of spiritual growth and community engagement. We rely on the Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles to shape our learning and faith formation.

## What do we teach?

Guided by a curriculum called "Soul Matters," we teach on a variety of themes: possibility, relationships, opening to joy. Each Sunday during the church service, the Director of RE (DRE) and RE teachers lead an activity for children that connects to the monthly theme and to the Seven Principles.

## Is RE the same as Sunday school?

RE is a little different from Sunday school. Rather than offering a "traditional" classroom environment, we use interactive storytelling and social-emotional activities to engage heart, mind, body, and spirit.



**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."**

- William Butler Yeats

## **Why should I send my children to RE?**

This is such an important question! At FPUU Canton, our goal as a congregation is to nurture and nourish each individual child. We want to help each child explore their own beliefs, struggle joyfully to become their full self, and walk a spiritual path uniquely theirs.

By sending your child to RE, they will be joining a community of loving people who help them grow into the people they are meant to become.

Sending your child to RE also gives parents/guardians a chance to worship with other adults in the sanctuary. While you worship, you can trust that your child is interacting with peers, teachers, and spiritual-social-emotional content designed to meet an array of learning styles.

## **Infants & Toddlers**

If you have a child ages newborn to 4 and would like a playmate baby holder to be with your child during the service, ask DRE Cindy or an usher or worship associate, and we'll connect you with a loving volunteer to be with your child!

## **RE for Kids Ages 4 to 13**

This age group will start in the sanctuary for 10 to 15 minutes, and then will meet together, either outdoors (weather-permitting) or in the chapel, for age-appropriate activities based on the monthly theme.

## **Youth Group**

We are looking for middle and high school students to help us build a youth group! This group will meet once or twice monthly to discuss relevant issues, participate in social justice/outreach projects, and have fun together!

In the meantime, middle and high school students participate in the worship service alongside adults, and they may volunteer as baby holders, RE teacher assistants, and more.

## **Special Programs**

OWL (One Whole Lives) an Coming of Ages will be offered in conjunction with neighboring congregations. If you are interested, reach out to DRE Cindy.

## **Questions? Thoughts?**

Our DRE program thrives on your thoughts, question, interest, and involvement!

Please reach out to the Director of Religious Education (DRE) Cindy Koegler any time at [dre@fpuucanton.org](mailto:dre@fpuucanton.org).

### **DRE Office Hours**

Tuesday 9 – 3

Thursday 12:30 – 5

Sunday 9 – 3

