Greetings and welcome to West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, where our mission is to inspire more people to lead lives of meaning and purpose!

At West Shore, we don’t believe that meaning and purpose need to be put into people, like money deposited into a bank. We believe that deep down, everyone possesses a spark of the divine, and the role of religious education in spiritual community is to help each other become more aware of that inner spark—and to learn how to give greater and greater expression to it.

It’s like music. You listen to your favorite musician, and this taps into something deep within, which answers back with joy.

But what if we could take the next step with that joy and learn how to play our own musical instrument—so that we could let the world hear what has been hidden in our hearts all along?

West Shore is about inspiration that helps people of all ages grow into their own form of beauty and wisdom and leadership in a world that needs us.

We are all spiritual beings having a human experience!
Layne Richard-Hammock  
Director of Religious Education

Layne Richard-Hammock grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is enjoying her 6th year at West Shore. She currently has 26 years of Religious Education leadership experience, and there is still a lot of wind under her wings. This is the fourth congregation she has served in her tenure. Layne has a BA in Elementary Education, and is certified as an Interim Religious Education leader and through the UUA, and is a Credentialed Religious Educator. She has served in a wide variety of district and national level leadership roles including Midwest Leadership School staff, LREDA Good Officer, facilitator of Renaissance modules among others; and currently serves on the Steering Committee for the Guild of Interim Religious Educators. Layne’s philosophy of religious education embraces the notion that everything we do, say and are, contributes to our growth as UUs and our ethical, spiritual and moral development as human beings. She is a UU Evangelist with a deep commitment to the lifesaving messages in our UU traditions.

“Like so many parents, I first came to UUism years ago in search of Religious Education for my children. What I found was a spiritual home for the family and a vocation for myself. Over the years, my commitment to the institution of Unitarian Universalist health and well-being has deepened. In these times, we especially need the ethical, progressive and affirming-to-all voice in our world. We need to sink our roots in this rich soil so we may take wing and make a difference in our world.” ~Layne Richard-Hammock

Our Philosophy of Religious Education for Children and Youth

Our Religious Education Program provides a community where children and adults can explore together the great religious questions of humanity. The Unitarian Universalist approach is unique in that it focuses on human and spiritual values rather than a set creed, thus providing thoughtful assistance as each individual develops an individual concept of his or her place in the world.

Children are able, at different developmental stages, to deal with different aspects of the same topics: birth, death, values, emotions, environmental concerns, sexuality, our heritages, religions of the world and many more. All developmentally appropriate programs at West Shore are geared to encourage UU faith development and identity.
West Shore’s Religious Education for Children and Youth Program is a great place to...

- Learn what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.
- Develop a deeper understanding of liberal religion.
- Explore a variety of spiritual practices.
- Engage in a justice-seeking community.
- Learn about the world’s religious traditions.
- Learn something new about yourself.

Primary Program Elements

- Worship For All Ages (In the Sanctuary) 10:15 a.m.
- Each Sunday children/youth start in the Sanctuary, then go to RE Classes
- Children’s Chapel
- Alternate years OWL Grade 7-9—Full Year — Will be happening this year.
- OWL Grades 5-6th in the Fall and Grades K-1 in the Spring in alternating years. - These two levels are happening next year.
- Age of Reason Grades 2-3—this Winter

Sunday Morning Childcare

Infants - 18 months
Nursery, Room 7

(Will be changing when construction is complete)

Our youngest children receive tender loving care in an environment that encourages imaginative and cooperative play. The nursery is regularly staffed with two individuals, Rachel Regula and Jamie Hansen. Rachel and Jamie strive to provide excellent care each Sunday morning. They play with the children and tend to their every need. Please remember that your young child may need some extra time to feel secure before you go to the Sanctuary. Arriving early deepens children’s sense of safety and allows the child to become familiar with the caregivers and the physical environment.

In the nursery, there is a sign-in sheet for each child, along with the parent phone number. We ask parents to put their phone on vibrate during the service so a caregiver can call during the service if there is any reason for concern. Please leave any essentials (such as bottles, diapers, etc.) in the nursery with specific instructions for the caregivers.
**Friendship Finders**
18 months - Young 3’s
Toddlers, Room 5

- Class Leaders include:
  - Madonna King
  - Gary Kustis
  - Sara Massey
  - Alison Aber, RE Committee Liaison

*Friendship Finders* is a Unitarian Universalist theme curriculum that celebrates sharing, family, friends, feelings, nature, and seasons. The hope is for our *Friendship Finders* to enjoy themselves, feel confident without their parents, and to learn that church is a fun and safe place to be. *Friendship Finders* have the opportunity to learn about our Unitarian Universalist faith simply by playing and having fun with their friends.

Each week will have a specific theme that will be represented in books, songs, and simple activities. We want the structured routine to help them feel comfortable and confident. They will also be introduced to circle time, non-fire chalice lighting, and bringing in an offering.

**Chalice Children**
Pre-School
Mature 3’s - 4 year olds
Room 5

Developmentally appropriate exploration of the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles for preschoolers. Lots of free play together with stories and activities, learning about the ROYGBIV rainbow version of our principles, UU values and lighting of the felt board chalice.

Class leaders include:
- Alison Aber
- Megan Kelly
- Jasany Jenkins
- Alison Aber, RE Committee Liaison
The goal of this author was to create a program that reaches the emotional and spiritual core of the young child. Over the course of 36 lessons the children will explore all manner of 'treasures' that are part and parcel of being human. The theme of 'treasure' carries through the whole year with both a class treasure chest as well as individual chests the children will take home next spring. Introduction to UU Principles are woven throughout the program.

Class leaders include:

- Lisa Alleman
- Carolyn LaWell
- ————
- ————
- RE Committee Liaison

Spirit Play, a Unitarian Universalist curriculum and teaching model is based on the Montessori method. The curriculum is story-based and teaches our seven Unitarian Universalist principles, six sources, history of the church, and timeless themes. Each lesson includes a coming together time, a story that includes manipulative and visuals, some wondering questions, work time, a snack, and a goodbye.

Spirit Play is taught with manipulative objects and every work time includes an array of choices for each child. Each child chooses what lesson they would like to focus on during their time for work. The class offers children a chance to slow down and appreciate stillness, so children can hear their inner voices.

Check the RE Table in the Rotunda for a Spirit Play brochure with more information about this program.
Cultural Cooking for UU Kids
Grades 3 & 4
Baker Hall—North End
(Will be changing when construction is complete)

Children love to eat, and they love to cook. What better way to introduce youngsters to different cultures than through food. This curriculum uses stories about food and cooking to give children a “taste” of different cultures around the world. This fits in with our UU principles that encourage us to learn, grow, and to value and respect each other to build a more peaceful world. Additionally, the stories in this curriculum expose children to lessons about helping each other, being part of a community, being adventurous, being independent, sharing and the importance of family.

Class Leaders include:
• Kelly Florian
• Emmy Levine
• Alysa Virzi
• Michelle Nochta
• Candice Markle, RE Committee Liaison

D’Oh God
Grades 5 & 6
Library
(Will be changing when construction is complete)

D’oh, God! uses episodes of The Simpsons as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of religious topics. At each class, an entire episode, about 20 minutes, is viewed, a distinct advantage when discussion is the intention. After viewing, the class engages in discussion and activities, designed to encourage deep contemplation of issues. This program was developed to meet the needs of high energy pre-adolescents and has been used with great success.

Class Leaders include:
• Josh Finkbeiner
• Marcia Krahel
• Chris DePiero
• Matt Crockett
• Heather Hall, RE Committee Liaison
Crossing Paths: World Religions: Year 2
Grades 7 & 8
Room 9

As with most “neighboring faith” type programs, this one is organized as a year-long program. An important part of this program includes trips to other houses of worship and/or visits from representatives. Professional religious educators have blended this program with the monthly themes of Soul Matters to bring that focus into the learning.

Over the course of the year the faith traditions covered will include:

- Unitarian Universalism
- Judaism, Islam and Christianity
- Catholicism
- Black Church Traditions
- Christian Evangelicalism (Mega Church)
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Quakers
- Wicca or Humanism (will be added 2019-2020)

Class leaders include:
- Linda New
- Augie Cintron
- Tina Gliniecki
- Katherine Thorpe
- Gaile Schaefer, RE Committee Liaison

Youth Group discusses issues of spiritual importance to today’s youth. This year’s curriculum coordinates with the church-wide monthly Soul Matters themes to serve as a platform for the exploration of some of life’s most enduring questions.

Through activities and discussions we will investigate these topics from a variety of perspectives, spurred by the sharing of our stories; youth and advisors alike. Along the way, we’ll deepen our understanding of some of “life’s big questions” and maybe discern a few answers even as we build our own strong and beloved youth community.

Advisors include:
- Jack Smith, Youth Ministry Coordinator
- Marinel Rosu, Advisor
- Beth McGuire, Advisor
- Jeff Martin, Advisor
- Margaret Gardner, Advisor
- Brian Gardner, Advisor
- Irene Morley, Advisor
**Sunday Night Youth Group**

**SNYG 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

The Sunday night high school youth group of West Shore meet the second and fourth Sunday of each month in the spirit of fun and exploration. SNYG meetings begin with potlucks or brown bag dinners before we light the chalice and have a quick check-in. The SNYG includes socializing, discussions, games, social justice, intergenerational gatherings, movies, and field trips depending on the night. This program is youth led with adults present to advise and assist. For more information, contact youth coordinator Jack Smith. jackedwardsmith@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Jack Smith started as a youth advisor the Winter of 2017. He transitioned from an advisor to coordinator last year. Jack and the youth met for a planning session to discuss ideas for the Sunday morning and Sunday evening youth groups and is looking forward to working with the group to put these ideas into action with an active youth led initiative.

Jack says, “I never expected to work with high school students, but I was asked to help out one time and here I am. I was first excited to see the passion and creativity from the youth group while attending my first youth led service as West Shore in 2016. I assisted Kelly Pinkas with one SNYG and had the opportunity to get to the group on a personal level. The students are engaged with areas of culture, justice, and current events. I look forward to being a part of their lives and working with them to make their community, the West Shore community, and the greater Cleveland community a better place.”

Please welcome to the Religious Education for Children and Youth/Religious Education staff team, Sandi Regula. She lives in Rocky River, loves animals and enjoys frequent trips to Walt Disney World with her adult daughter. Sandi generally works two or three weekdays and Sundays. She'll pull together the teacher supply requests, track all sorts of data including enrollment, arrange for childcare, maintain the supplies, produce publications and many other fundamentally important tasks to the smooth running of the Religious Education Program.
Rites of Passage

Age of Reason

Each year, our children in Grades 2 & 3 have an opportunity to enroll in *The Age of Reason* program. It is a rite of passage and foundational deepening of identity as a Unitarian Universalist at this ripening stage of development. Classes are generally held for 6-8 Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:30 a.m. or after church. Program includes:

- A special tote bag filled with an activity booklet exploring our 7 UU Principles and other items.
- To feel more deeply connected with their church, the children will be meeting with Rev. Tricia Hart and core West Shore staff.
- Credo writing is part of what we will do together. Their belief statements are rich and delightful, and shared from the pulpit during their culmination ceremony. Parents also share words of affirmation to their child, before the congregation.
- Other elements include making meditation beads in the ROYGBIV rainbow colors—a tool for considering the 7 UU principles in living life. Memorizing and speaking in unison the principles, having fun playing and bonding together as young UUs.
- Culmination ceremony will be part of a Sunday service.
- Program graduates are eligible to be Chalice Lighters/ Bowl Sounders for Sunday Services.

Detailed invitation letters will be mailed later this year to all Second and Third grade families enrolled in the RE program. If your family does not receive this mailing, contact Layne at lrichard-hammock@wsuuc.org.

Child Dedication

Unitarian Universalists believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. We set aside a special time, called the Ceremony of Dedication, for the community to bless the child and celebrate the blessing of this gift of life. When we dedicate a child we acknowledge the truth that each child's life is sacred and hold that truth in the light of our faith. We offer a child dedication service three times a year. October 13 during morning service, December 24 during the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. The third date will be in the January Prospectus.

For more information or to schedule, please contact Layne at lrichard-hammock@wsuuc.org.
Choral Opportunities

Junior Choir

Children and youth from kindergarten into high school are invited to join the Junior Choir. The only requirement of membership is to care about each other. The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings, September through April, and performs in worship services and more informal settings once a month. The goal of Junior Choir is to have fun with music that celebrates UU principles. Junior Choir rehearses each Sunday in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

Joe Schafer’s original music books are available for $12 each; proceeds support the West Shore Junior Choir. Contact Layne Richard-Hammock at lrichard-hammock@wsuuc.org or Joe Schafer at jschafer99@aol.com

Frequently Asked Questions

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church welcomes all families to this faith community. We have been the spiritual home for many interfaith couples. As a recognized “Welcoming Congregation,” we value and promote our bi-sexual, gay, lesbian and transgender parents and family members. A growing number of grandparents seeking and supporting a UU religious education for their grandchildren encourages us to be committed to creating a truly intergenerational church community. All are welcome!

We’d like to visit the church with our children. What do we need to do?

We’d love to have you visit. If you can call ahead or email lrichard-hammock@wsuuc.org, we can help you prepare your children for their Sunday experience. If you’re not able to call ahead—no worries—we’ll welcome you on Sunday. Your family can attend the Sanctuary worship together on the first Sunday you visit, or your children are welcome to attend Religious Education classes. Parents are welcome to stay in class while your child gains comfort. Nursery care is also available for infants to 18 months. We ask that you complete a visitor card at the Welcome Desk, and encourage you to leave your cell phone number with your children’s teacher or childcare giver. You will receive a warm welcome.
How do I enroll my child for RE Classes?

Paper enrollment forms are available on the RE Table in the Rotunda. Enrollment must be done annually so we have updated information. Contact our RE Administrative Assistant, Sandi Regula at sregula@wsuuc.org for further information.

What time are Religious Education Classes?

On Sundays, children and youth go Church which begins at 10:15 a.m., then go to Class. Class ends at 11:30 a.m. Our Sanctuary services end approximately at 11:15 a.m., which gives parents some brief time to socialize before they pick up their children from classes up to Grade 2. Older children will be released at 11:30 a.m. Please allow class to conclude. See the schedule on page 23.

What opportunities do children and youth have to practice social action, to learn about giving to the community and to the world?

Our first and seventh principles, that we affirm and promote “the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” compel us to teach the value of social action. All our curricula support “walking the walk.” CONTINUING this year, we’ll be expanding the tradition of giving an offering during their weekly class time.

What safety procedures are in place to protect children and youth who attend your programs?

West Shore Church has a board approved safety policy for children and youth. The Religious Education Committee determines the procedures to support the policy. We require a parent or designated adult to be in the building when a child attends Sunday morning RE or activity. We require adult volunteers who work with children and youth sign a code of ethics and submit information and consent for a mandatory background check. All classrooms have two persons and safety procedures are in place. West Shore Church practices an all-church fire drill each fall. Further requirements regarding transportation of children and youth, activities at church and off-site, etc., are stated in our safety policy.

Weekly Offering

We’ll view the time together in Sunday morning classes through the lens of “liturgy” that will, in broad strokes, mirror the worship liturgy in our adult services. Children and youth will have an opportunity to give a weekly offering. These funds will be given to a worthy recipient of the children’s choosing.
Is there a religious education fee?

There is no enrollment fee for participation in the children’s Religious Education program. The cost of the program, built into the budget, is supported through the financial pledges made by parents and all members, thus reflecting the value of this program. Whether member or friend, making a pledge of record means you are identifying yourself as a person who supports the church and values its funding of our religious education program for children and youth. Your contribution of record or pledge will also provide you with a charitable tax deduction. We strongly encourage and invite parents to become church members.

Please plan to attend regularly.

It is our hope that parents will ensure their children’s consistent church attendance so they may benefit most deeply from their involvement. In many ways ours is a cooperative program, and support and volunteer time from parents is both expected and appreciated. Healthy participation includes Time, Talent and Treasure.

Re Kids Start Where’ Schedule for September 2019-January 2020

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<td>1st Grade, Jr. &amp; Sr. High School, and older in service for Teen’s class</td>
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<td>Jan 9</td>
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<td>Jun 8</td>
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Notes:

- Check referendum EVERY SUNDAY 9:30 AM in the Chapel

It’s a great time for all ages!
Here at West Shore UU Church, we honor the reality that sexuality is an important part of our lives from cradle to cane. Offering comprehensive and age-appropriate information is seen as a ministry. O.W.L. or Our Whole Lives offers classes across the lifespan including K-1, 5-6, 7-9, Sr. High, Young Adult and Adult programs. At West Shore we alternate years in offering the two younger classes with the 7-9th grades class and offer the three older classes on a periodic basis.

The OWL Program
What is OWL?
Our Whole Lives
Ministry of Sexuality Education

As UU’s we understand that sexuality education is a life-long process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity, intimacy, relationships and sexual health.

All levels of OWL are built upon the following assumptions with age-appropriate information:

• That parents are (or have been) the primary sexuality educators for their children and teens.
• Sexuality education begins—and primarily takes place—at home.
• All persons benefit from accurate, clear and age-appropriate information about sexuality and relationships.
• Open communication creates a healthy family environment and engenders trust.
• Sexuality education should include information about misuse and abuse possibilities and how to avoid these.
• Sexuality education should center on the gift of sexuality and nurture the values of mutual respect, reciprocity and responsibility.

This year, 2019-20, the Religious Education department will offer the core 7-9th grade program. All OWL classes are covenanted groups and drop-ins are not possible.

For additional information visit www.uua.org/re/owl/
Unitarian Universalist Principles & Purposes
*We 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.

Children’s UU Principles
*R.O.Y.G.B.I.V.*

- **Respect** the importance and value of every person.
- **Offer** fair and kind treatment to everyone.
- **Yes** to spiritual growth and learning together.
- **Grow** by exploring ideas and finding your truth.
- **Believe** in our UU ideals and voice your vote.
- **Insist** on freedom, fairness and peace for all.
- **Value** our responsibility in the web of life.

This pneumonic of the “Colors of the Rainbow” HELPS CHILDREN LEARN.

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West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

*The living tradition which we share 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.

*As adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association, 1995*