

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church Religious Education for Children and Youth

Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire our children and youth to lead lives of meaning and purpose. We recognize parents as a child's first and primary religious educators. In the spirit of cooperation and support, we offer a program to explore the great questions of life. To that end, we believe there are four ways we attempt to enable children and youth to lead lives of meaning and purpose.

- We sustain a covenant of caring and inclusive religious community in our classrooms and in committee-sponsored events.
- We offer age-appropriate programming that encourages spiritual growth and welcomes questions and builds community.
- We teach information and values, not creeds, of our Unitarian Universalist heritage, its seven principles* and six sources**.
- We foster opportunities for children and youth to be in service and seek justice for others, within the congregation, in our local community and to the world.

***Seven Principles**

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

****Six Sources**

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic women and men
3. Wisdom from the world's religions
4. Jewish and Christian teachings
5. Humanist teachings
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-based religions