

Volunteer Opportunities

Our RE program is a cooperative. That means we need YOU!

We request that everyone with a child in the RE program make a volunteer commitment each year. There are many ways you can help out, from occasional special events to once-a-month playground supervising to weekly classroom teaching. Every volunteer is important, and we value every minute donated to the program.

You need not be an RE parent to help out. Interested? Check out the "Religious Education Volunteering" brochure for more information.



Our RE Vision Statement

Through participating in the religious education program at First Unitarian, children and youth will:

- Develop social inclusiveness skills and feel a part of this church community.
- Have practical experiences that relate to UU principles, expanding and enriching their daily lives as they grow towards adulthood.
- Learn to incorporate UU beliefs into their personal beliefs and learn to express those beliefs.
- Learn to respect and appreciate the faiths of others.
- Develop a spiritual foundation to take on their life's journey.



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Religious Education for Children & Youth



First Unitarian

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Albuquerque • Carlsbad • Edgewood • Socorro

Welcome!

We're so glad you've brought your family to First Unitarian. Choosing a spiritual home for yourself and your children is an important decision. We hope you find that home here, and we look forward to getting to know you.

To register, ask questions, or find your child's classroom, come to the RE foyer - up the steps in the southwest corner of the central courtyard. Cheerful staff and volunteers will be there to help you.

Religious Education at First Unitarian

Unitarian Universalism (UU) is a liberal religion open to the wisdom of all the world's faiths. We affirm the worth of all beings, and encourage each other to be kind and responsible, embrace our individuality, and search for truth and meaning in our lives.

First Unitarian provides a warm, open, supportive community for our children to learn and grow within. Our program teaches personal values, ethical living, UU principles, and the varied sources of our religious heritage. UU religious education gives kids a framework to develop their own spiritual selves among friends and caring adults.

We Are a Safe Congregation

We care about the safety and welfare of our children and youth. Our RE staff and volunteers undergo background checks in order to work with children, and we maintain a "two adults at all times" safe church policy during all RE activities and classes.

Sundays in RE

- * **9:30 & 11:00 classes:** Nursery and preschool; Pre-K/K; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade; 4th & 5th grade
- * **11:00 only:** Mid-high (6th-8th grade); La Amikoj (high school, school year only)

Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are cared for by trained and paid nursery staff; all other classes are co-operatively taught by enthusiastic volunteers from First Unitarian's community.

Faith formation and a connection between RE and the Sanctuary is fostered by Children's Chapel, a child-centered service held in the RE building once a month, and attendance in the Sanctuary for all-ages programming once a month.

There is no fee for the Sunday program. However, registration is required for all participants. Registration allows us to properly plan, staff, and fund our RE and childcare. Information and registration forms are always available on Sunday mornings in the RE foyer and on the Connections table in the Sanctuary foyer.



Special RE Offerings

Coming of Age Classes

Each spring we offer Coming of Age classes to our eighth graders as they prepare for high school. Coming of Age students learn more about UU and themselves as they prepare "This I Believe" statements and lead a service for the entire congregation.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

OWL is a nationally acclaimed, lifelong human-sexuality curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association in partnership with the United Church of Christ. First Unitarian OWL classes are taught by trained volunteers to age-appropriate groups of children, youth, and adults.

UU Summer Camp

UU kids love Summer Camp; many remember it as a highlight of their youth. Campers congregate for one week each July in the beautiful Sacramento Mountains near Cloudcroft.

La Amikoj Grill Nights

In the summer our high-school students take a break from Sunday classes, getting together on Wednesday nights instead for a casual meal and community building.

Choir

We have two children's choirs that rehearse twice monthly during the school year, performing at Sunday services every other month.

Special Events

The annual holiday pageant and parties, intergenerational dances, regional conferences, social-justice training, and other leadership and outreach opportunities round out First Unitarian's RE program.