



MSUUF Religious Education Program

Raising Unitarian Universalists in Caring Community

◆ **SEPTEMBER 12, 2004 NEWSLETTER**

◆ Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

◆ Vancouver, Washington ◆

Calendar	Updates	Tip of the Day	RE Program Vision	Message Board
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Greetings Teachers,

I hope your first day back in RE was satisfying for you. Unfortunately, I was not able to check in with most of you to see how the morning went. Please feel free to email me or call me with questions or concerns. I will be at the church on Tuesday around 9 am.

Although I won't get a newsletter out to you every week, my plan is to send you one often enough that you get the updates you need.

An updated [Calendar](#) is to the right of this column. You will also find in this edition of the newsletter, we have included the following sections.

[Calendar](#) - 6-week view of the RE calendar

[Updates](#) – Changes or other things you should know

[Tip of the Day](#) – Reminders and thoughts to pass along

[Message Board](#) – Miscellaneous catch-all

Let me know if this is helpful, if there is something you want me to add (or subtract).

Thank you for spending your Sundays with us.
In Faith,

Barbara Stevens
Director of Religious Education

Catherine
RE Committee Chair

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event
9/18-19	Overnight	Finding Your Faith Rafting Trip (7/8)
9/21	7:00-9:00 PM	Healthy Children, Healthy Planet (adult class)
9/26	10:30 AM	Nursery Parent Orientation
9/26	12:45-2:00 PM	Finding Your Faith Parent/Mentee Orientation
10/3	DRE sub today	Barbara leading credo workshop with FYF youth
10/3	Toward the end of service	Fire Drill
10/3	12:45-2:45 PM	Back to RE Gathering
10/7	7:00-9:00 PM	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Orientation
10/10	DRE sub today	Barbara at DRE Covenanting
10/12	7:00-8:30 PM	Healthy Children, Healthy Planet; K-1 OWL
10/17	12:45-2 PM	Diversity Team Meeting
10/24	DRE sub today	Barbara at LREDA (DRE organization) conference

Updates

◆ ART RESOURCE ◆

A Human Resource for your Arts and Crafts Needs

Colleen is a whiz at coming up with arts and crafts activities and will assist teachers with curriculum enhancements or adaptations. Call her a few weeks ahead of time. She can not only organize quiet crafts, but can also help with more active projects such as building bird houses.

◆ CALENDAR ITEMS OF NOTE ◆

Back to RE Gathering

We have advertised that parents will be able to meet their child's teacher at this orientation, so please attend if you can. The meeting lasts from 12:45 to 2:45 PM. If you can't make it, let me know.

Games Training

This has been postponed. I would like to reschedule this Cooperative Games and Low Ropes training for November 6. Please let me know if this date works for you. Again, the cost is around \$20.

Junior High Advisor's Training

This training has been cancelled.

REMINDERS AND TIPS

The supply shopping list is taped to the inside door of the middle storage unit in the kitchen area.

When you figure out your teaching schedule, please send it to me. It really helps me to know who to expect on a Sunday or who to call if I need to pass on information before class.

The third Sunday of the month is the *Servetan* deadline. Every month, I list the plans for each grade's RE class. If you make changes in the calendar I sent you, or if your class doesn't use a curriculum, it helps a lot if you let me know before the deadline what you will be doing so I can get accurate information to the parents. Call, email, or write me a note that you put in my box, or even make a comment in the Look Book.

Remember, the Look Book is for you. Note that I changed the fire drill to October 3. Although there will be a DRE substitute that day, I will be here. If this date does not work because of your curriculum plans, let me know right away. In the Look Book, I also gave you the date of the teacher potluck: November 7 at 1 PM. Not only will you be able to hang out with the other teachers, but we will quickly evaluate the year. The point of the evaluation is to find out what logistical issues have not been resolved and decide what to do about them.

Love your neighbor as yourself ◆ Search for truth with an open mind ◆ Make the world a better place

MESSAGE BOARD

◇ JOYS AND SORROWS RITUAL ◇

Today, the K-4 children learned a song to go with the Joys and Sorrows ritual we do on *Third Principle Sunday*. First we share our joys and sorrows. Next, I draw the meditation bowl. Drawing the bell means taking the stick and running it around the rim of the bowl. It makes a soft ringing which gets louder and louder. The children sit quietly until the sound disappears. Then we sing, "Listen, Listen, Listen." The words are repetitive, and the melody is simple, but lovely. Although we will use this ritual over and over, we only have four Third Principle Sundays this year. If this would fit into your Sunday routine, that would help reinforce the song. If you would like the music, let me know.

◇ MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOMS ◇

I have asked the music committee if any singers would be willing to work with the children, especially in the 3-4 grade where songs are part of the curriculum. If you want or need a musical assistant in your classroom, let me know.

◇ SNACK ◇

There should always be some sort of snack laid out for you when you arrive in the morning. If not, let me know. But in case you end up with no one to put snack out, you should at least know where to find our cracker stores. There are extra snacks in the cupboard above the sink, on the top shelf. We are well stocked at this time. Paper plates, cups, and napkins are down below, to the far right of the sink. Pitchers for water are in the cupboard above the sink. We hope to make this easy for you.

◇ BIG THANKS ◇

. . . to all of you for signing up to nurture and support our children and youth. Thanks, also, to Kim and Catherine for helping me with singing during the Third Principle Sunday, and to Pamela and Dorothy for assisting.

THE VISION OF THE RE PROGRAM

We offer our children a safe, caring community of intergenerational sharing, respect, and joy, where they can grow into Unitarian Universalists who can articulate a personal religious philosophy, who are compassionate, who feel awe at the wonder of the universe, and who have faith that their positive efforts are worthwhile.

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