

# Saltwater Church Family Ministries

## Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth



### **Nursery (ages 0-3½ years)**

Faith development starts at a subliminal, pre-language level as our youngest children are encouraged to feel safe and happy in their church home. Toddlers will enjoy time for free play as well as lessons from *"Friendship Finders,"* which nurtures young children's spiritual growth, creativity, and connection to their Unitarian Universalist community through rhymes, games, songs, stories, and activities.

## **World Religions**

**These classes help participants become familiar with and better understand the major religions of the world. Each class will examine the beliefs and practices of a variety of religious traditions.**

### **Story Time (ages 3-7)**

Based on the Montessori method, and drawing on a "morning as worship" model, this class embraces self-directed learning and multiple learning styles. Through story, wondering, and creative response, children make meaning of the language of faith and life's questions. This year's stories will be drawn from a variety of religious traditions.

### **Trail Blazers (ages 7-10)**

*"Wisdom from the World's Religions"* introduces faith traditions, practices, and beliefs from major world religions, and then invites participants to apply these to their own individual understanding of big questions, such as who or what is god, and what happens when we die, and what is the purpose of religious rituals.

### **Creativity Club (ages 10-14)**

This group will draw from *"Wisdom from the World's Religions"* and "Building Bridges," a world religions program to deepen youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live. It seeks to broaden their knowledge of humanity and embolden their spiritual search. Participants will join high school youth in visiting neighboring houses of worship.

### **High School Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The Youth Group works with adult advisors to plan programs which include personal sharing, discussion of religious and ethical issues, guest speakers from other religions and from the community, service projects, participation in district youth conferences, and worship. This year youth will explore *"Neighboring Faiths."* This UU curriculum explores the history and development of different faith traditions. The youth will plan their own program by choosing which religious groups to learn about, visit and relate to their own growing faith.

