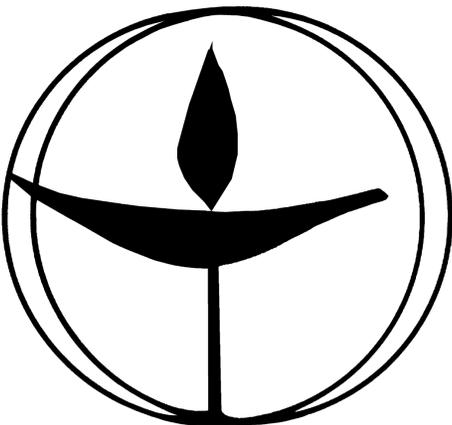


Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blacksburg, VA.

Prospectus 2017 / 2018



Lifespan Faith Development

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

P.O. Box 10116
1301 Gladewood Drive
Blacksburg, VA. 24062-0116
(540) 552-9716
www.uuconrv.org



Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Karen Hager
difd@uuconrv.org

Welcome to Lifespan Faith Development at UUC

Unitarian Universalists believe that faith development is the lifelong journey of ethical and spiritual growth that each of us takes. UUC's goal is to provide support for our congregants' personal journeys from cradle to grave.

Beginning in the Nursery, our infants and toddlers learn that UUC is a safe and nurturing congregation. Paid caregivers provide careful supervision in a warm and welcoming environment.

At age 3, preschoolers move into the Children's Religious Education program, which provides age-appropriate religious education classes through grade 8. Our goal is to encourage each child's spiritual growth, a social conscience, and a personal UU identity. UUC does not tell a child what to believe; we support each child in the discovery of his/her own personal beliefs.

Middle school students can experience further bonding with each other by participation in Middle School Youth Group, which offers fun activities supervised by background-checked adult advisors. In grades 9-12, students may join YRUU, a youth-led high school youth group that meets weekly, with an emphasis on community building and service, leadership development, worship, fellowship, and social activities.

Adults have opportunities throughout the year to also participate in religious education classes. From Sunday morning discussion groups to classes that meet weekly or monthly, adults have the opportunity to explore their beliefs and deepen their faith.

And, we also offer other, specialized classes throughout the year, including the renowned Our Whole Lives sexuality education program.

We are here to help your family as you learn and explore. We know that each individual, child to adult, will have a unique religious journey, and we are here to support your travels!

~ Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Children's Programs

Finding the right religious education program for your child can seem daunting to many parents. Often, parents are seeking a community of shared values, and a way to help children form their own religious beliefs.

The Children's Religious Education program at UUC includes classes on our Judeo-Christian heritage, other world religions, our Unitarian Universalist identity, and social action / justice. We do not teach children what to believe, but help them to discover and travel their own personal paths.



If you are wondering if your child should attend church at all, consider the words of a Unitarian minister from the nineteenth century, Minot Judson Savage:

Parents tell me continuously that they do not give their children any religious training, from the feeling that it is taking unfair advantage of the child. They say, "I propose to let my child grow up as far as possible unbiased." (But) if you do not bias (your children), the first one that (they) meet on the street, or in school, or among their companions, will begin the work of biasing, of the impression of education, for this is a continuous process. Whether you will it or not, it is something over which you have no choice. It is something that will be done wisely and well—or unwisely and ill.

Parents are the most important teachers, but if your values are the same as ours, we can help you with this part of your job.

While here, your child will learn that all big questions have many answers, and that they will need to search responsibly for their personal answers. We will help them in their search as they consider the big questions and discover that there are as many ideas about these questions as there are people.

Goals and Themes

The goals of the RE program are:

- To encourage spiritual growth
- To provide religious literacy
- To help children in the development of their own UU identity
- To encourage a social conscience

There are five themes that are reflected within the RE curriculum:

- Jewish/Christian heritage
- Religions of the world
- UU identity
- Social responsibility
- Concepts of God



Religious Education

Nursery care is offered for infants and toddlers who have not reached their third birthday by September 1st. Nursery involves play and storytelling in a warm, nurturing atmosphere. Our Nursery is supervised by experienced, paid caregivers.

Religious Education classes are offered for preschool through grade 8 students. See page 6 for a listing of current curricula.

Registration

Registration is required each fall for all children and youth age 0 through high school who will be participating in the LFD Program. There is no fee for classes and activities, but families registering are expected to contribute to UUC financially as they are able, and to volunteer with the LFD program. Register online at uucnr.org/education.htm.

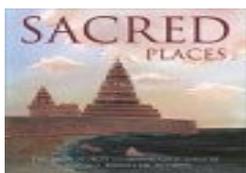
Children's RE 2017-18 Curriculum

PreK (ages 3 & 4)
Chalice Children

Based on the premise that children learn best through experience, this program helps nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community through imaginative activities and rituals such as rhymes and fingerplays. Classes introduce children to concepts such as birth and death, dreams and the natural world.



Grades K-1
Picture Book World Religions



An introduction to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism is provided through a beautiful and engaging selection of picture books, allowing our children to explore the differences and similarities to their own lives.

With this first exposure to religions of the world, we allow our children to begin a journey of understanding, tolerance and celebration for the diversity of human expressions of faith.

Grades 2-3
Spirit of Adventure

This UU-identity curriculum is written for active children, using physical movement, challenge and adventure as teaching mechanisms. While engaging in activities like dissecting electronics, building cantilevered architecture using graham crackers, and singing Jingle Bells in "dog" language, our children will learn about other UUs - some famous and some in our own congregation - while finding their own UU identities .

Children's RE 2017-18 Curriculum

Grades 4-5
Holidays & Holy Days

Holidays are an age-old vehicle of religious socialization, setting time aside to remember a great person or event, give thanks for life's bounty, or to invoke light and gladness for overcoming darkness and danger, death and drought. Festivities tell a story which children absorb through experiences far more than through words. The class will learn about and celebrate holidays and holy days of world religions throughout the year.

Grades 6-7-8
Building Bridges

This world religions curriculum introduces middle school youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in their community. Through classroom discussion and reflection and visits to other churches, the program deepens a youth's understanding of the dynamic, fascinating and varied world in which they live, broadening their knowledge of humanity and emboldening their spiritual search.



Grade 8 (requires registration by 9/10/2017)
Coming of Age

Coming of Age is a special program that pairs 8th grade youth with an adult mentor in the congregation, to prepare for the transition from childhood to adulthood. As the class explores the Big Questions of life, this program emphasizes self-awareness and confidence-building, as well as service to our congregation and to the community, culminating in a spring affirmation ceremony. *Requires pre-registration and a commitment to attend all classes.*

Youth Programs

Middle School Youth Group *Open to youth in grades 6-8*

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) is the social component to our Middle School RE classes. The emphasis is on fun, with social activities and social action projects that encourage bonding among participants. Guidance is provided by adult volunteers.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m., September through May. Meetings may be held at UUC or offsite. Past activities have included bowling, hiking, bonfires, and a visit to Sinkland Farms. MSYG may also participate in social action projects, as well as overnight lock-ins at the church.

High School Youth Group (YRUU) *Open to youth in grades 9-12*

Our high school youth group, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), is a youth-led group that allows all to have fun while sharing spiritual interests, and serving others.



Meetings are held Sundays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Once a month, youth and advisors have an OOCE (Out Of Church Experience) such as laser tag, bowling, tubing, hiking, or other fun activity.

YRUU also participates in service projects, lock-ins at the church, a special coffeehouse fundraiser, and often a regional youth convention (known as a "CON") held out of town. YRUU also leads two Sunday morning services each year.

Youth empowerment is an important goal of YRUU. Teens gain the ability and agency to make decisions and create change in their own lives and in the lives of other people.

Other Youth Programs

Teen Teacher Assistants *Open to youth in grades 9-12*

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join a religious education teaching team as an assistant in the classroom. Youth are welcomed as team members and are a tremendous asset to the program, as the young children look up to them as role models. The teens gain leadership skills while remaining active in the life of the congregation.

Children's Offering

Our Children's Offering benefits the Interfaith Food Pantry. Donations of canned goods and cash will be accepted in class. All parents are encouraged to have their children participate.

Learn more at interfaithfoodpantry.org.

In times of light and times of darkness



May this small flame

Kindle what is good

In us and in the world.

~ Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

Additional Information

Sunday Mornings

On most Sundays, children begin in the Sanctuary with parents for the first 15 minutes of the service. After "For All Ages", the children and their teachers leave for their classrooms. RE classes last approximately one hour. Parents should pick up their children immediately following the service.

Visitors

We welcome young guests in our RE classes on Sunday mornings. We ask that a Visitor's card be completed by the adult responsible for the child. To enroll in our RE program, please obtain a Registration Form from the DLFD or the RE Teacher.



Transitions

We know that it can be difficult for some children, particularly those who are younger, to feel comfortable in a new place. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to class for the first few visits to ease the transition to separation.

Attendance

We are here to help you educate your child, but we can't do our part if you don't do yours. It is important to be as consistent as possible in attendance, as familiarity is basic to a sense of belonging and ownership. A child's comfort level and relationship to the UUC community is dependent on their attendance.

Safety Policy

All teachers and advisors involved in ongoing work with minors are required to pass background and reference checks, per UUC policy. Two adult teachers will be present in each classroom during regular RE classes.

Other Children's Programs



Chalice Kids

Open to children in grades 2-5

Our Chalice Kids light our chalice in the Sunday morning service. Chalice lighting is considered an honor, with Chalice Kids taking turns serving on Sunday mornings. Training is provided by the Minister and/or Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD). Those interested may register during Fall Registration, or may contact the DLFD.

Children's Choir

Open to children grades K-8

Our Choir Director, Ella Kromin, offers Children's Choir for children in grades K-8. Learn more by emailing Ella at choirdirector@uucnr.org.

The Seven UUC Principles in Children's Language

1. We believe that each and every person is important.
2. We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
3. We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
4. We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
5. We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
6. We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is an age-appropriate sexuality education program, jointly developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

OWL helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

UUC currently offers OWL classes for grades K-1, 4-5 and 8-9 on an alternating basis, as well as OWL for Adults,

UUC is fortunate to be offer this renowned sexuality education program to our congregants and we encourage you to enroll your child, if eligible.

OWL Schedule:

Fall 2017: Adult OWL

Winter 2018: OWL grades 8-9

Winter 2019: OWL for grades K-1 and 4-5

A commitment to attend all classes is required to participate in any OWL program.



Our Whole Lives

K-1 OWL

Supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families. Parents and children attend classes together and are engaged with stories, songs and activities K-1 OWL promotes dialogue between parent and child for a healthy start to sexuality education. *Not held this year.*

4-5 OWL

Teaches children about the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants will examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making. A short-term optional covenant group will also be offered for parents of children enrolled in 4-5 OWL to allow parents to discuss issues raising a child nearing puberty. *Not held this year.*

8-9 OWL

Models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. This holistic program moves beyond the intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world. Unlike many other sexuality curricula currently available, this program is comprehensive and progressive. In an inclusive and developmentally appropriate manner, it addresses sensitive topics that are typically excluded. Classes will be held January-April 2018. An informational meeting for parents will be held this fall.

Adult OWL

Participants must be age 18 or older.

Using values, communication skills and spirituality as starting points, this program explores sexuality issues for adults of all ages. Adult OWL builds an understanding of healthy sexual relationships, affirms diversity and helps participants accept and affirm their own sexuality throughout their lives. Classes will be held September 2017-April 2018. An informational meeting will be held August 13.

Adult Programs



Who is God?
Where did we come from?
Why does evil happen?
What happens when we die?

Every human being on earth has asked themselves these questions at some point, and most likely each person has found a different answer.

National Geographic's series, *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*, takes viewers on a trip around the world, speaking with people of faith, exploring theological questions, and discovering what unites the world's religions.

Each class will focus on a single topic and include the viewing of a 40 minute episode, followed by discussion. Come learn how different religions view the answers to life's big questions.

No particular ideology is advanced in this series.

- *Beyond Death*—explore how different religions past and present explain what happens after we die
- *Apocalypse*—the prophecies of violent cataclysms and the strife of ages past, and making an attempt to determine how the world will end.
- *Who is God?* - the quest to discover who God is and how he, she or they have evolved over human history.
- *Creation*—exploring where we came from and what happened in the beginning.
- *Why Does Evil Exist?* - the attempt to understand the root of evil and how ideas of it evolved.
- *The Power of Miracles*—how our belief in miracles can shape our understanding of God.

Adult Programs

The Story of God, with Morgan Freeman invites congregants on an exploration of world religion through life's big questions. Here are some other ways you can learn more about the religions of the world.

Multi-generational Visits with Middle School (see page 7)

Join our middle schoolers as they visit other places of worship this year as part of the *Building Bridges* curriculum.

Judaism: Temple Emmanuel

Buddhism: Dharmapala Kadampa Buddhist Center

Hinduism: Shantiniketan Temple

Islam: Islamic Society of the New River Valley

Christianity: St. Mary's Catholic Church

Christianity: Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Christianity: Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church

Facebook Discussion Group

Join our moderated Facebook Discussion Group on world religion topics at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1178336732181957/>.



Online World Religion Class

Visit our online Adult Faith Development class at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1178336732181957/>

Class schedules can be found on uucnr.org by clicking Calendar.

The Environmental Justice Film Series

Movies from the 2017 Sundance New Climate Program
Sponsored with the Social Justice Team
Begins Winter 2018

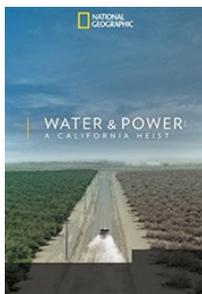
An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power
Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. Cameras follow him behind the scenes — in moments both private and public, funny and poignant — as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion. Learn more at <https://inconvenientsequel.tumblr.com/>
Co-sponsored with YRUU.



Chasing Coral

Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. Filmed over three years, with 500+ hours underwater, it includes footage from over 30 countries, and was made with the support of over 500 people around the world. Learn more at <http://www.chasingcoral.com/>

Water & Power: A California Heist



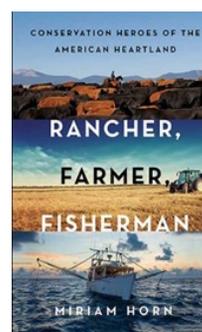
In California,, water barons find ways to structure a state-engineered system to their own advantage. This examination shows how small farmers and everyday citizens are facing the drought and a new, debilitating water crisis. Go inside the ruthless exploits of those who profit off California's water supply while everyday citizens suffer. Learn more at <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/water-and-power-a-california-heist/>

The Environmental Justice Film Series

Movies from the 2017 Sundance New Climate Program
Sponsored with the Social Justice Team
Begins Winter 2018

Trophy

Explores the complex issues of animal conservation at a time when endangered African species such as elephants, rhinos and lions march ever closer to extinction. This in-depth look into the powerhouse industries of big-game hunting, breeding and wildlife conservation in the U.S. and Africa unravels the complex consequences of treating animals as commodities. Learn more at <http://www.trophyfilm.com/>



Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman

The inspiring story of heartland conservation heroes who are feeding the world while stewarding the land and water. Meet Justin Knopf, a Kansas farmer revolutionizing industrial scale agriculture to rebuild the fertility, biodiversity and resilience of his soil; and Dusty Crary, a Montana rancher who forged alliances between cattlemen, federal agencies, hunters and environmental groups to protect the Rocky Mountain Front.

Learn more at <http://rancherfarmerfisherman.com/>

Plastic China

As the world's biggest plastic waste importer, China receives ten million tons per year from most of the developed countries around the world. With high external costs impacting the local environment and health, these imports are reborn here in plastic workshops into "recycled" raw materials, then exported back to where they came from with a new face such as manufactured clothing or toys. Explores how the work of recycling plastic waste with their bare hands takes a toll not only on workers' health, but also their own dilemma of poverty, disease, pollution and death. Learn more at <https://www.plasticchina.org/>

Adult Programs

New (Or Not So New) to UU

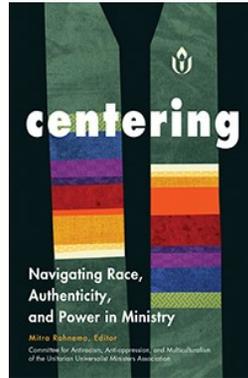


Join Rev. Pam as she explores Unitarian Universalism in a class designed for both newcomers and those who want to feel new to UU again. Learn more about our roots, theology and traditions, and how we approach religious education and social justice. The class will meet on Thursdays October 19 through November 2.

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry Book Discussion Group

A joint project of the Committee for Antiracism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism of the UUMA and Skinner House Books, *Centering* is the first book to center the stories, analysis, and insight of Unitarian Universalists of color offering their religious leadership. A three-session book discussion group will be held in early 2018.

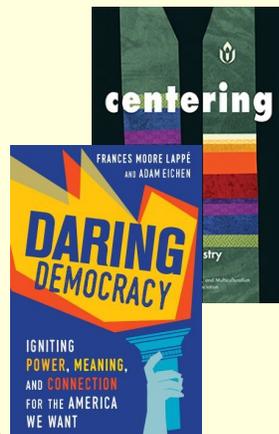
Watch the UUC Calendar or weekly emails for more details.



New in the UUC Library

The 2017-18 UU Common Read Books

Each year, a committee of the UUA chooses a book or books as a common read, to build community in our movement through a shared experience and meaningful conversations. This year's choice invites UUs to look inward, examining, exploring and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our congregations, groups and ourselves.



Adult Programs

Sunday Circle

Join us for stimulating conversation on a variety of topics. View upcoming topics on our website. Meets September through May on the first and third Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Library.

White Allies / White Privilege Discussion Group

All are welcome to join our ongoing discussion group on white privilege and racism. Topics are announced via email. Email Karen Hager at dffd@uucnr.org to join the listserv and receive links to the discussion articles. Meets on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m. downstairs in room 5.

Conversations on Our Faith

Bring your lunch and join the conversation, as we discuss a book that deepens our spiritual journey. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters being discussed. Group members share their insights and personal experiences and all thoughts and opinions are welcome. Meets weekly Wednesdays at noon in Elarth Hall.



Meditation Group

Start or deepen your meditation practice. Centering words and basic instruction are followed by sitting practice. Experienced and non-experienced meditators are welcome. Meets weekly Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Class schedules can be found on uucnr.org by clicking Calendar.

Multi-Generational & Family Programs

The Buddy Project



Children and adults are paired together for a fun way to make new friends of another generation! Participants exchange notes and small gifts without revealing their identity. Buddies meet each other at our holiday intergenerational service. Sign up in October to participate.

It's Scary to be Hungry

Food donations are solicited for the Interfaith Food Pantry at a local Kroger store during October by kids in costumes. A great social action event for the family!



Mitten Tree

The entire congregation brings mittens, hats, and scarves to decorate our Christmas tree. All items are donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

Easter Egg Hunt for HSMC

Our annual egg hunt goes to the dogs . . . literally! Children hunt for items for our furry friends which are then donated to the Humane Society of Montgomery County. Another great family social action project!



Intergenerational Services

Holiday Service

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Join Rev. Pam and DLFD Karen Hager for a holiday intergenerational service meant for kids of all ages. Holiday music, holiday stories and our annual "no rehearsal" holiday pageant make for a fun, yet meaningful, service. Our Buddy Project concludes on this date, with buddies meeting at the end of the service.



Easter Service

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Rev. Pam and DLFD Karen Hager again team up to provide a UU Easter Service. Celebrate the joy of the season, while remembering this important story from our



LFD Staff

Karen Hager: Director of Lifespan Faith Development
dlfd@uucnr.org
Rachel Craine: LFD Assistant

LFD Council

lfdc@uucnr.org

Volunteer with LFD

RE Teachers

RE Teachers teach as part of a 4-teacher team. Teachers volunteer for a semester commitment, responsible for leading 4 classes and assisting in 4 classes. The total commitment is 8 Sundays per semester.

OWL Teachers

OWL teachers require special training to teach. Teachers are part of a team for a class that runs 8-12 Sundays, depending on the class age. Classes rotate biannually; teachers are asked to commit for multiple years, due to the cost of training.

Adult RE Teachers

ARE teachers teach alone or as part of a team. The commitment is dependent on the class needs.

MSYG Advisors

MSYG Advisors serve as part of a team, supervising youth at monthly meetings September through May,

YRUU Advisors

YRUU Advisors rotate as part of a six-member team, supervising youth at weekly meetings.

Classroom Aide

Aides are needed to help with children in the lower grades that benefit from one-on-one attention. No prep is needed.

Lifespan Faith Development Council (LFDC)

The LFD Council is responsible for overseeing the overall LFD program and for policy creation. Members are sought to represent all areas under the responsibility of LFD.

Volunteer with LFD

Other Volunteer Opportunities

We have a wide variety of short-term volunteer opportunities available. Every family is asked to volunteer to help with the RE program.

- ◆ Take a shift at Kroger for It's Scary To Be Hungry
- ◆ Check in Buddies or help set up and clean up at The Buddy Project Buddy Meeting
- ◆ Provide childcare at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Childcare Event
- ◆ Help set up and clean up for the Ice Cream Social
- ◆ Fill or hide eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt for HSMC
- ◆ Help YRUU with fundraising, planning the annual trip, or the annual YRUU Coffeehouse
- ◆ Help organize the Library
- ◆ Host a family party or movie night
- ◆ Teach or assist with a Summer RE class
- ◆ Help with intergenerational services
- ◆

Please see Karen Hager or Rachel Craine for more information on any of these volunteer opportunities.

UUC LFD Volunteer Page
<http://signup.com/go/HqJL2W>
Sign up online to volunteer.

Summer RE

Summer RE runs June 10-August 19, 2018.
No RE May 27 or September 2.

When regular RE classes end for the year, UUC begins a Summer RE program designed for fun ages PreK through 5th grade. Middle School youth may join their parents in the Sanctuary, or come help teachers in the RE class.

The program for grades K-5 will be announced in spring 2018. Previous programs have included:

- Books and Cooks: cultural cooking for UU kids
- Passport to Adventure: a trip around the world with a stop in a different country each week
- Time Travel: our Time Travel Machine visited a different period in time each week
- Sunday Arts: a summer full of fun art projects
- Science Sundays: fun science projects to full a summer

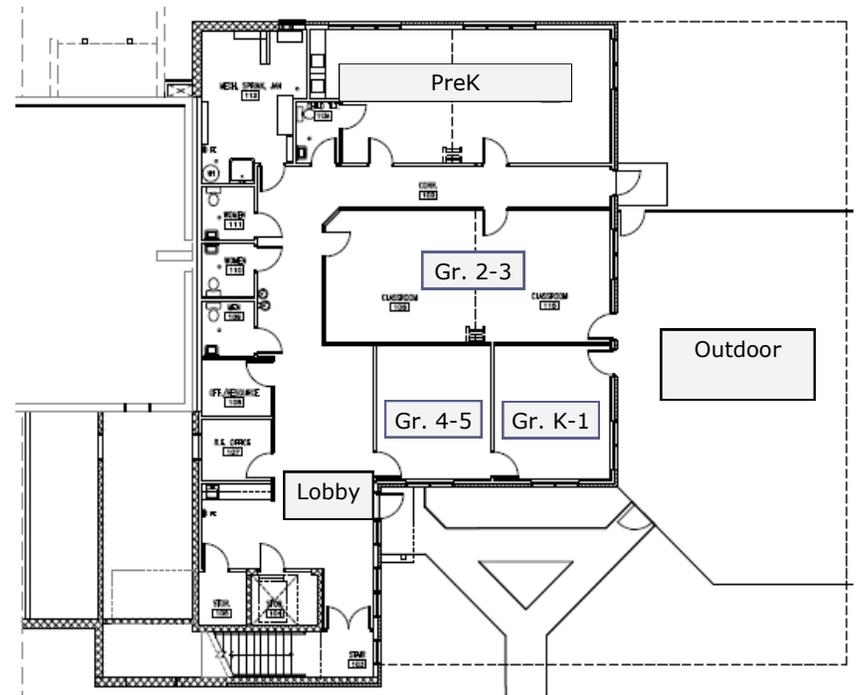
Sunday Funday Program

For PreK (age 3 by 9/30/18 through rising kindergarteners)

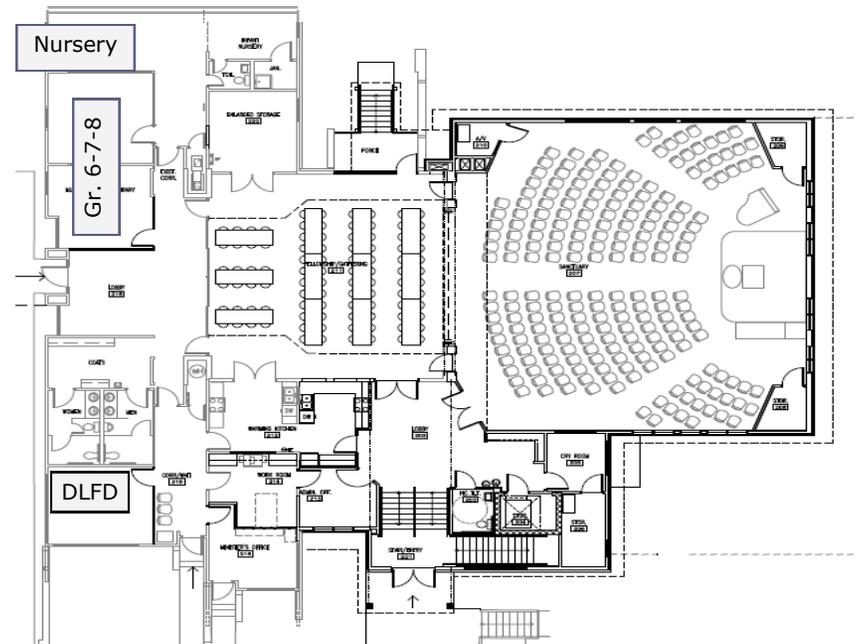
Bring a toy to share, and come have fun with your friends at our Sunday Funday program. Playtime, a story and a coloring sheet will help our littlest friends get comfortable at UUC before the next RE year begins.



Multi-generational Flower Service June 3, 2018
Multi-generational Water Service August 26, 2018



LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

Contact Information

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1301 Gladewood Drive
Blacksburg, VA. 24062
(540) 552-9716
www.uucnr.org

Director of Lifespan Faith Development (DLFD)

Karen Hager
dlfd@uucnr.org
(540) 577-8043 (C)

Minister

Rev. Pam Philips
minister@uucnr.org
(434) 996-7094 (C)

Administrator

Lisa Evanylo
administrator@uucnr.org
(540) 257-3612 (C)

Additional information about Lifespan Faith Development programs is communicated via our weekly email newsletter. Contact the DLFD to be added to the listserv.

Welcoming Congregation

UUC is officially recognized by the UUA as a *Welcoming Congregation*. We welcome participation by all kinds of families and recruit our RE teachers regardless of sexual orientation.

Register online at uucnr.org/education.htm
Visit uucnr.org for class dates
and additional activity information.

Reprint September 2017