

Unity Basic Principles (For Children)

The only true power in the Universe is God:
and God is good.

The Christ is alive in me and in everything.

Through the power of god my thoughts can
change my life.

I can choose to let go of hurtful things.
I can choose to think loving thoughts.

I can talk to God.
I can listen to God.
I can use the Truth I am learning.



Unity Christ Church of Gaithersburg
111 Central Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

(301) 947-3626
www.unityingaithersburg.org



Parent's Handbook for Youth Education

“Our mission is not to entertain the children, but to call them out. To be always entertained is to be dwarfed and dependent. To be ‘called out’ is to follow the harmonious law of the soul’s unfoldment.”

-Myrtle Fillmore (co-founder of Unity Churches)

Welcome to UCC of Gaithersburg Youth Education Program!

The Youth Education Department at the Unity Christ Church of Gaithersburg is dedicated to the spiritual unfoldment of this world's most precious resource—the children. We offer Sunday morning classes for all age groups, infant through high school.

Our mission is to provide a loving, supportive and joy-filled environment that promotes spiritual growth, physical and emotional health and positive self-esteem. By using the teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as a study in virtues, we seek to gently guide each child to recognize his or her God-given gifts and Christ qualities.

In addition, special events or family oriented activities are held throughout the year to support the spiritual growth of the families who attend UCC and to make a significant contribution to our community. To promote the likelihood of a meaningful experience for every child entrusted to our care, we have established some guidelines. They are outlined in this handbook. We ask that you become familiar with them and respectfully request that you adhere to them. So we can better meet the needs of the children, their families and our volunteer teachers.

Wonderful Ways to Love a Child

Give your presence ♥ Laugh, dance and sing together
 Listen from a heart space ♥ Encourage ♥ Understand
 Call them love names ♥ Send them love letters
 Really love yourself ♥ Allow them to love themselves
 Ask their opinions ♥ Learn from them
 Say yes as often as possible ♥ Say no when necessary
 Honor their no's ♥ Don't yell ♥ Apologize ♥ Touch gently
 Build lots of blanket forts ♥ Learn about parenting
 Open up ♥ Fly kites together ♥ Change your routing
 Listen up ♥ Believe in possibilities ♥ Take time away
 Read books out loud ♥ Create a circle of quiet ♥ Teach feelings
 Remove guilt ♥ Share you dreams ♥ Play hooky together
 Let go when it's time ♥ Let them come back
 Show compassion ♥ Keep them in you heart and in your prayers

-Judy Ward, M.S. W.

Registration

To better serve the young people as well as you, the parent or guardian, we ask that any child or youth attending Sunday morning classes as other than a guest be registered through the Youth Education office. We ask that the parent or guardian complete a Enrollment and Medical Information Form available from the office. Please know that all information is kept confidential should you need to include anything highly sensitive. Feel free to discuss any concerns with the Youth Ed Director. We are here to serve you and your family.

Toys

We provide toys for preschoolers and nursery. School age children will be busy with the day's spiritual lesson. Game Boys, Dolls, etc. only distract the children from our program. While nothing is lost in Spirit, when toys come to church with children they often appear to become lost. Thank you for leaving toys in the car or at home.

Teachers

All of our teachers are volunteers. Most are not formally trained to educate or work with children, but all are motivated by a love of children and a desire to make a difference in the world. They see helping children to know and express God's love in their daily lives as a significant way to make this kind of difference. We are so grateful that they give so generously of their time to serve in this way. After all, most of them have full-time jobs as well! We hope that you will respect and honor them for the commitment they are making to your child and our church.

Attire

We understand there are differences in how children and their families dress for Church. There are no rules as to what is appropriate. Many children are more comfortable in casual clothes. Please be aware that younger children will be on the floor some of the time and some of the activities may from time to time be a little messy. Also, for preschoolers, we do appreciate easy on-and-off clothes for those trips to the restroom. Shoes are required for all children.

Offering

We are trying to teach children early the concept of tithing and giving back for what they have received. A Sunday ritual that we are beginning to impart during Sunday School is the giving of the offering. All monies from the offering go to the Youth Education fund.

Parent Participation

Your presence and participation in our program are not only welcomed but strongly encouraged. We need parent involvement to ensure a continued strong program. This is a partnership—we all want what is best for the children! Ask your child what he/she learned in class that day, talk to your child’s teacher. If you know what your child is learning weekly you can reinforce this in your home.

By volunteering to assist the teachers, perhaps you will feel more comfortable or confident in your own role as a spiritual guide. Plus, by actually spending time in your child’s classroom you relay a very positive message...that your child’s spiritual growth is very important to you!

Please plan to give back in some way. After all, our teachers are just other members of our church. volunteering their time. They could probably use your support and assistance! Or maybe just a hug and a thank you.!

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Our Youth Education Program



Infant to Grade 5

Nursery, Child Care and Unitots

The nursery is staffed and provided for Sunday services. Nursery and Child Care available, with notice, for all church

is classes and events.

The nursery is a safe and nurturing place where children share some toys and games, take a nap, get a fresh diaper, sit on a loving lap and listen to a story or just 'hang-out' while listening to Nursery Angels remind them just how unique and special they are. This is a loving place and a wonderful place to volunteer.

Unitots are our children that are ready for some learning time, ages 3 to 6. Being very sensitive to their short attention span, the teachers have a brief lesson taken from the What A Wonderful World curriculum designed by Unity for this age group. There are also songs, games, and crafts offered that coincide with the lesson.

Youth Education for Younger Children

For school age children our classrooms are separated by grade. Our 1st and 2nd graders or *Unicorns* are in a class together and then the *Unikids*, which are the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are in a class.



These are energetic, creative centers of youthful exuberance where the loving message of the Christ is conveyed through storytelling, role-playing, and fun and enlightening activities.

All Youth Education classes take place in the Youth Education Building behind the sanctuary building.

Uniteens:

Uniteens are 6th, 7th and 8th grade students learning to accept personal responsibility for making right choices in life and becoming more aware of their spiritual nature.

In Uniteens, we learn what the principles and laws of the universe are - we see how to apply these magnificent guidelines to our lives - it is personal and powerful and safe and definitely not boring!



Youth of Unity - Y.O.U. - Youth of Unity (YOU) is a spiritual group for High School aged teens (14-18) who come together every week to discover who they are as spiritual beings. Walk into a place where negative judgment, criticism and peer pressure are left outside - where teens are free to express who they are and who they want to be.

Our experience includes a weekly service with many of the spiritual lessons given by the teens.

YOUs are adult guided, youth directed.

If you are a teen at heart, this is the place for you!

YOU Sponsors: Steve Leckie

