

## Mission Statement

“Guided by our 7 Unitarian Universalist principles, Faith Formation at UUCM will create a joyful, spiritually nourishing environment for learning and living, that fosters healthy connection with self, our congregation, the greater community and the earth.”

## Worship Services

September–June  
Sundays at 10:30am  
All Ages Gatherings  
With Circles & Special Programs  
for Children & Youth

July–August  
Sundays at 9:30am  
All Ages Gatherings

Visit [www.uucm.org](http://www.uucm.org) for details about our church, worship services, programs for children and youth, adult education, and more!



**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
in Milford**

20 Elm Street  
Milford, NH 03055  
603-673-1870

## Children & Youth Faith Formation



*It is vital that when  
educating our  
children's brains that  
we do not neglect to  
educate their hearts*  
~Dalai Lama

## Programs for Children/Youth

### **(Faith Formation programming)**

Our Programs for Children are designed to help us live our third and fourth principles at church:

- Encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- Free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

### **Childcare (Infant – Kindergarten)**

Experienced caregivers will provide a safe, friendly environment where Infants and young children can play and socialize. Childcare is available from 10:15- noon. Parents are welcome to spend the beginning of the service in the Sanctuary with their child(ren) and move to the Childcare room at any point if desired.

### **Sunday Morning Circles (1st–6th grades)**

On Sundays when Sunday Morning Circle is offered, children and youth join us at the beginning of every service and then are sung out to attend their Circle. Our Sunday Morning Circle provides children a chance to build friendly connections as they learn about our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Each session will help us understand our own values and the values of others, and involve activities such as physical activities, cooperative games, story time, music/singing/dancing, and arts and crafts.

Throughout the year, there will be workshops, where congregation and community members will be invited to share their skills with the children (i.e.: yoga, meditation, music, cooking, etc.).

Several times a year the children and youth will also participate in special events, such as social justice projects, community service projects, youth-led community suppers, and holiday craft workshops.

## Youth Groups

### **Middle School Youth Group (MSYG)**

Middle School Youth Group meets periodically for projects and social activities.

### **High School Youth Group (HSYG)**

Our High School Youth Group meets once a week. Youth meet with experienced facilitators to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and clarify their own values and beliefs. Activities may include service opportunities. Youth work with the adult leaders to create and lead a Sunday service. They also are encouraged to participate in worship services and congregational life throughout the year.

### **Our Whole Lives (OWL)**

The Our Whole Lives program (OWL) provides detailed accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, pregnancy, birth control, and cultural influences on sexuality. This program is offered every few years to children in grades 7 and up.

### **Other Programs:**

#### **Special Events**

Several times a year the children and youth participate in special events, including Mystery Sharing Friends, Everyone's Birthday party, family hikes, Winter pageant and many more multi-generational events.



## Whole Congregation Worship

Throughout the year, some Sunday services are designed for Whole Congregation Worship. On these Sundays, Children Sunday Morning Circle is not offered, and we invite children of all ages to remain in the Sanctuary to experience the entire service. Family Room and Childcare are also available.

### **Family Room.**

At any point during Whole Congregation Services, parents and children are welcome to visit our Family Room. The Family Room is equipped with speakers so that parents may spend time with their little ones and still listen to the worship service. Toys and simple art supplies are available. Parents are welcome to start in the sanctuary and then move to the Family Room at any point in the service. Parents must remain with their child(ren) in the Family Room. This also provides a great opportunity for fellowship among families. Always available

### **How Do We Accomplish This?**

Our Interim Minister, Reverend Carol Strecker, and our Children & Youth Faith Formation Committee plan and execute programs for children and youth. We need your help and ask parents, guardians, and other congregants to volunteer. There are many ways to get involved. Please see Office Administrator Jamie Ferrier to volunteer to help!

