

## 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

## Sunday Morning Circles:

### (Faith Formation programming)

On Sundays when Circles are offered, children and youth join us at the beginning of every service, and then are sung out to attend their circles. Circles offered this year are:

**Friendship Finders (ages 2–5)** Young children gather for play with supportive, caring youth and adult supervision. Activities may include story time, music/singing/dancing, and simple arts and crafts.

**Young Elementary** Our Circles provide 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 and music activities, cooperative games, and arts and crafts. Appropriate for children in grades 1–3; some children in Kindergarten or grade 4 may find this group appropriate.

**Upper Elementary** Our Circles will foster positive relationships between children as they learn ways to demonstrate our Unitarian Universalist principles in their daily lives. Sessions will include creative activities, discussions, and physical activities designed to engage age group. Appropriate for children in grades 4–6; children slightly older or younger may find this group appropriate.

**Junior High/ Upper Middle School** During the 2017–2018 Church year, children in Grades 7–8 will participate in the Neighboring Faiths program. They will learn about a wide variety of faith practices and traditions by attending services at temples, meeting houses, and other churches. Adult leaders will provide opportunities for discussion of different religions and belief systems.

**\*\*\*To discuss appropriate class placement please contact [office@uucm.org](mailto:office@uucm.org)**

Free Childcare (infant up to 2 years old) is always available.

## 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.

## Children/ Youth in Whole Congregation Worship

Throughout the year, some Sunday services are designed for Whole Congregation Worship. On these Sundays, Children's Circles are not offered, and we invite children of all ages to sit with their families or classmates, remaining in the Sanctuary to experience the entire service.

At any point during Whole Congregation Services, parents and children are welcome to visit our **Family Room**. There, you will be able to hear the service and relax with your family. There are also books, crafts and games available. This also provides a great opportunity for fellowship among families.



## 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. *(Not offered during 2017–2018).*

## Other Programs:

**Sharing Friends (all ages):** This program offers an opportunity for children/youth to become better acquainted with a single adult in the congregation, by exchanging messages (e.g. postcards) and participating in enjoyable joint activities. The program occurs mid-year and generally lasts several weeks.

**Special Events:** Several times a year the children and youth participate in special events, such as a social justice project, a game day, or a holiday craft workshop.

## 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!

