

Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

September 2010

Volume 7 Issue 1

WELCOME
BACK



Welcome to the New Church Year

I hope you have enjoyed a very warm but wonderful summer. I've noticed the yellow school buses making practice rounds

and the stores posting signs for school supplies, so fall and the changes it brings to our routine is definitely on the horizon. The co-ministers and staff are gearing up at church, as well—all back from vacation, all ready to begin anew. We hope to see you soon.

Sunday, September 5, 10:30, is our ingathering service. It includes water communion and child dedication. **The following Sunday, September 12, we begin two service/church school times, 9:30 and 11:15.** We will gather in the sanctuary, dedicate our volunteer teachers, and the children and youth will then leave for Sunday School.

55% of last year's children and youth are registered for this fall's program. There is a good balance of children for every class, both sessions, at present. We encourage parents to register their children/youth as soon as possible, so that we can make the best decisions regarding teachers, space and supplies. Secure registration can now be completed at the church website, www.wsuuc.org or at the RE table on Sunday.

And finally, congratulations to Jacob Streitl, son of members John and Susan Streitl, who was honored as an Eagle Scout in a July ceremony in Lakewood. Fifteen years old, Jacob is quite young to have achieved scouting's highest award, a journey he began in sixth grade. His final merit badge project merged his interest and commitment to scouting, his church and the environment. He created the plans and oversaw construction of our church's produce garden beds. Again, congratulations, Jacob, on this outstanding achievement.

Kathy

Child Dedication

We dedicate children of church members three times a year, on Ingathering Sunday, Christmas Eve, and Mother's Day. Please contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, 440.333.2255, ext. 115, **no later than Tuesday, August 31**, if you have an interest in the Sunday, September 5 dedication.

Teacher Dedication

Sunday, September 12, both services, we will dedicate our Sunday School teacher volunteers. Please be present to show your support for the 42 volunteers who serve this congregation's largest program beyond our worship services, our religious education for children and youth.

Sunday School Classes & Times

Session I: 9:30 - 10:40
Jr. Choir: 10:40 - 11:15
Session II: 11:15 - 12:25

Class	Curriculum
Nursery: Infant-24 mos.	
Toddler: 2-3 yrs.	<i>Friendship Finders</i>
Pre-K, K: 4-5 years	<i>Chalice Children</i>
Grades 1, 2	<i>Spirit Play</i>
Grades 3-4	<i>Timeless Themes</i>
Grades 5-6	<i>World Religions</i>
Grades 7-8	<i>Coming of Age</i>

Junior Church, our high school group, will meet at the first session, only. We will offer different and unique opportunities for this age group at the second service time.

OWL, Grades K - 1

Parents of incoming Kindergarten/Grade 1 children are invited to attend a parents' meeting for *Our Whole Lives* human sexuality program, on **Sunday, September 12 and Sunday, September 19 at 4:00, respectively.** Letters of information were sent to families in late August. Please contact Kathy Strawser to register or to seek more information.

Annual Fire Drill

Sunday, October 3, at the conclusion of both services, we will conduct our annual fire drill. Our Sunday School teachers have practiced this drill and will follow a quick, safe exit plan with our children and youth. The ushers, ministers, worship associates and staff all have assignments for your safe exit from the sanctuary and remaining church areas. A 30-second period of sharp beeps will begin our drill. A ringing school bell will signal that the drill is over.

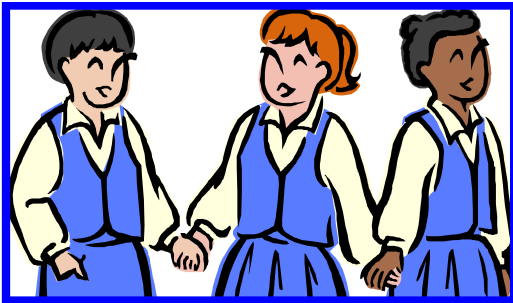
Parents: You need to meet your children and youth in the parking area behind the church **after the ending bell. No child or youth will be returning to the building without his/her parent.**

2009 - 10 Religious Education Committee Members

Our R.E. Committee is in place and ready to begin planning and supporting our R.E. program for the year.

Jason Bosch and Gaile Schafer, co-chairs

Sara Beech	Jeff Dudzik	Cheryl Maude
Laura DiRienzo	Heather Macalla	Pam Vizdos
	John Mack	



The Three Choirs of Lifespan Faith Development

West Shore's LFD program now offers three opportunities to raise your voice in song:

Junior Choir - for ages five through high school. With the help of the enthusiastic involvement of our youth members, our Junior Choir family grew to its largest size last year. Plans for this church year include -

- An October field trip to sing at the Akron UU Church.
- Our 2nd annual caroling between services in December.
- More singing in harmony, with the help of our youth members.

Junior Choir rehearses between services from 10:40 to 11:15. We welcome all children and youth to join us on September 12 for our first rehearsal. Accompanist Tom Horwitz, choir assistant Jeremy Beech, and I look forward to greeting you.

Youth Choir - for high school age youth. Who can forget the wonderful Youth Sunday service last May! That service marked the first offerings of our Youth Choir. This year Maddi New returns as Youth Choir manager. We hope to sing for a number of worship services and special events, including the December between-service caroling. We will rehearse on selected Sunday mornings right after Junior Choir at 11:15.

Intergenerational Choir - for Junior Choir and Youth Choir members, plus adults of all ages. With the help of singers from our Adult Choir, this group will get together twice during the coming church year to sing for intergenerational services in November and April. We will rehearse between services on the three Sundays before the November and April IG services. This is an opportunity for all who love to sing to be a part of an exciting musical experience that blends the voices of multiple generations of West Shore UU's.

All three choirs are dedicated to celebrating our UU values with music. There are no try-outs, just an enjoyable experience for all. Come sing a song with us!

Joe Schafer

When Do Kids Need Help?

Led by Dottie Brown & Rae Speaker
Saturday, September 25, 12:30 p.m.

Review the emotional needs of children and learn the "red flags" parents need to know when children need treatment and where to find it. Dottie and Rae have long-term social work careers with children and their families. Members of the Pastoral Care Team with professional training in this area will be available for a conversation and an initial assessment by appointment. Contact Doris Matthey, 216-773-6265 for more information, as well as for other pastoral care needs.

Unitattler Going Digital in October

We're being green and saving paper! Beginning next month the *Unitattler*, West Shore's R.E. newsletter, will be emailed to parents, teachers and friends. If you wish to have a printed copy mailed to you, please contact Cathy Ross.

Chalice Lighters: Calling All Third and Fourth Graders

Chalice Lighters provides an opportunity for young people in our congregation to become familiar with the ideas of our unique religious tradition. They will learn to take an active role in the worship service by lighting the chalice at our Sunday morning services. Throughout the preparation process, family participation is built in to encourage an intergenerational exploration of religious identity enhancing the experience for young people.

Chalice Lighters has two basic requirements. Children and parents attend two dinner sessions, **Thursdays, October 14 & 28, 5:30 - 7:00**, with the ministers, and children, with some help from parents, complete the *Chalice Lighter* workbook. Invitations will be mailed and also distributed at church. To register, please contact Kathy Strawser.

Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting

Led by Kathy Strawser

On-line, weekly, six-session class, September 26 - November 7

Welcome to our first, on-line, parents class! Each week we will read UUA author, parent and credentialed religious educator Michelle Richards' new book, *Tending the Flame*, a practical, proactive approach to raising Unitarian Universalist children. We'll read about and discuss spiritual practices in family life, teaching the seven principles in age-appropriate ways, answering difficult questions on religious matters and dealing with religious disagreements. All with grace, humor and community! Book is \$18, available at our Bookstore; Kathy has three office copies available for loan.

R.E. CALENDAR

Sunday, August 29

11:45 Parents/High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, September 5

10:30 Intergenerational Service
Water Communion/Child Dedication
Childcare for infants—PreK

Sunday, September 12

9:30 & 11:15 Teacher Dedication
Sunday School
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Saturday, September 18

6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 19

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir

Sunday, September 26

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir

Staff contacts for events/opportunities in Unitattler

Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
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Phil Florian, Youth Ministry Coordinator
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Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant
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