

RE Schedule for January

Sundays

Childcare for children through age 10 available from 9:30 to 12:30

January 1

Happy New Year!

10:00-10:50

Buddhist Meditation, led by David Stack

Coffee and Conversation, Bread and Board—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 5th grade

1:00-2:30 Facilitators' Covenant Group

January 8

10:00-10:50

Spirit of Life Class, led by former minister Donna Stroud

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 12th grade

January 15

9:45-10:45 *Living the Questions Class—Lessons in Progressive Christianity*, led by Kathleen Anderson

This month's lesson is "The Myth of Redemptive Violence." Our culture teaches violence as an acceptable response to evil, and perpetuates it by making it pleasurable, fascinating, and entertaining. Children, especially boys, are acculturated from a very young age to the use of violence as a way to solve problems. Contemporary Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus' death was the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that without the shed blood of the assassinated God, forgiveness of sin and restoration of right relationship with God is not possible. Is this true? Or is it possible that belief in the salvific power of violence and sacrifice is the laziest, most simplistic, provocative, irrational, and primitive response to evil? Is there a better way? Come listen to scholarship and inspiration from leading theo-

logians, and discuss your own take on this ancient myth.

10:00-10:50

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

1:00-2:30 *Introduction to Paganism* Class, led by Sarah Kate Hampton

Everyone is invited to attend this group to gain insight into the truth behind the mysteries of magic. We will focus on making sacred space within ourselves and our homes. We'll work to create tools for use on a home altar, and with the meaning and use of magical tools. There will be lots of goodies available for altar crafting, but please bring your own choice of cloth, and any feathers, totems, or other personally meaningful items you would like to include. Preregister for this class by signing up on the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall, or you may contact Sarah (sarahkatehampton@yahoo.com) or our LFD director Kathleen (dre@uucs.org). Materials fee—\$15, due at door. Limit 15.

January 21

NEW!

9:45-10:45

Adult Forum, featuring visiting speakers from the larger community, with presentations and discussions, led by Marion Tisdale and Don Miles

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 12th grade

January 29

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 5th grade

Wednesdays

January 4

Building open at 5:30, but no scheduled supper.

6:15 Bring a dessert or beverage to share.

(Come for dessert and conversation, or bring your own meal earlier if you wish.)

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30 Book Club

January 11

5:45 Wonderful Wednesday supper provided by a covenant or other group (\$5 donation).

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Developing Your Own Theology Class, with Rev. Linda Bunyard

January 18

Same as first Wednesday

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Humanist Discussion Group

Anderson's Covenant Group

January 25

5:45 Potluck or theme supper

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Human Need and Healthy Humans Discussion Group, led by Monnie, Marilyn, and Cindy

January 16-17

5:30 pm Friday to 12:00 noon on Saturday

High School Youth Lock-In and Tie Dye Party

Kathleen's Korner

Special thanks to the middle and high school youth, who shared \$32 of the money they made from the Christmas Bake and Ornament Sale Fundraiser with the Social Justice Committee to help with gifts for the children at Christmas.

Special thanks also to Janice Baynes, Carolyn Bourassa, Barbara Cameron, Susan Prestipino, and Mary Bracey for their support and help with the fundraiser.

January is always a time of letting go of the events and patterns of the past year, and time to think about the things we hope to draw into our lives in the new one. Maybe THIS will be the year we give up all our bad habits or win the lottery and pay off the church mortgage. Or maybe not. The maybe not part is what stands out most in my experience and I tend to take a dim view of New Year's Resolutions, if only because I know too well that the most likely result is guilt, which I mostly gave up sometime back in the 90's. So, sorry, but no, I do NOT want to hear about the best new diet, or clutter my shelf with the latest book about how to get organized. Things are what they are, and I think maybe a better way to look at it is to relax and be willing to let go of the past—at least all the parts of it that we don't need, the parts that can't be fixed, things done or left undone, any potential unrealized. What's done is done or not, what's gone is gone, and here we are, in the one moment where we have power: RIGHT NOW. I think it is better to remember that the things we choose and the things we do don't have to be about tomorrow or the next day, in fact they can't be. I don't have to lose 30 pounds by Monday—I can just eat healthy food today. I don't have to clean up my entire life to entertain royalty or anything; I can just clean out my car or that junk drawer today. And I can choose again tomorrow. Life doesn't have to be so huge, or so hard. It is better to let the guilt and the urgency go, and simply choose well right now. And to remember that no matter what choices we've made before, there will always be another chance, another choice.

What I hope for all of us this year is that we will choose well in all the moments that are given to us: that we will choose to uplift the people around us, that we will choose to give help to those in need, that we will choose to do our work well and faithfully, that we will be kind, that we will choose to join in sacred community to be a light to the world, and to let the sacred community be a light to us. I wish for all of us a blessed, and full and very happy new year.