



**The Unitarian Church in Westport**

## ***Children and Family Faith Formation***

**Note from Dr. Heather Hamilton**

**Fall, 2021**

The Unitarian Church in Westport has a vibrant Faith Formation program dedicated to our children and youth. The children, Pre K – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, will be led by Dr. Heather Hamilton and the older youth, 8<sup>th</sup> grade -12<sup>th</sup>, by Nate Pawelek.

We provide a safe learning environment for our children and families. We will be following the Westport Public Schools protocol on the pandemic. With that said, we are excited to be going back to in-person Faith Formation this fall. All in-person classes will have both children/youth and adults masked no matter what one's vaccine status is. The services in our Sanctuary will also have all persons masked until further notice. As we all know, the virus has taken many turns and if we need to go back to virtual learning, we will. And don't worry, the curriculums we are using are designed for multiple platforms. Our Faith Formation program will thrive regardless!

Faith Formation for Pre K-7 will be led by a dedicated group of volunteer adults as well as two trained teachers, Mss. Rachel and Karen. All classes will follow the Unitarian Universalist Soul Matters Curriculum. This is a theme-based curriculum that allows us to focus on one theme per month. Here is what is in store for the remainder of 2021:

Sept. Embracing Possibility  
Oct.- Cultivating Relationship  
Nov.- Holding History  
Dec.-Opening to Joy

Our Pre K- 7<sup>th</sup> graders will meet from 10AM to 11AM each Sunday being divided into the following classes: Pre K-1; Grades 2-5 and 6 & 7. Pre K-5 classes will have at least two adults leading them in the morning's curriculum. Every class will have their own Chalice to light, share joys and sorrows and open the wonder box, sing, create and explore the lesson of the morning. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in Crossing Paths which examines other faith traditions and how others worship. We will also have field trips to other places of worship, if travel is safe. If not, we can watch many via live streams from all over the world.

**JOIN US SUNDAY, SEPT. 12** for Homecoming at 10AM and **SEPT. 19** 10 AM for Chapel Service for Pre K-7 led by member and wonderful art educator Cathy McElroy.

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPT. 27!** Registration can be found [HERE](#).

*Note: Parents with infants and toddlers are welcome to join the congregation in the sanctuary, or, for a little more privacy, in the foyer or library. These locations offer a little more privacy while still observing or hearing the service. Our ushers can help you get settled.*