

everything your family needs to know this week

the REnews

from the UUSGU
Religious Exploration Program

August 27th 2025

I was all prepared to write a chirpy introduction to this newsletter about the children going back to school this week, but I happened to look at the news first. Once again, children have died because the adults that run this country have decided it is more important that people can easily get firearms than that we protect school children. My heart goes out to those parents in Minnesota.

Bring your Backpacks and Workbags

Our first service for the program year. "Packing for the Journey", will be on September 7th. Please bring your backpacks, computer bags, purses, knitting bags, library bags, or whatever you carry with you as you journey through life and we will participate in giving it a group blessing. Save a little room for ice cream as well, as our first fellowship hour will be a Welcome Back ice cream social!

Calling All Youth!

Youth Group will be meeting on the first Sunday of every month with one exception (April). That means the first meeting will be Sunday, September 7th! We look forward to seeing you after the ice cream social following service. Grades 8 and up welcome.

Just a Little Paperwork

Attached to the same email as this newsletter you will find three forms--the 2025/2026 RE registration

RE Schedule September 2025

- 7 "Packing for the Journey" Spirited Service
Childcare Available
Youth Group at noon
- 14 Water Communion Spirited Service
Childcare Available
- 21 Sunday Funday – "Welcome (Back) to Our Community" – First Day of RE
Childcare Available
- 28 One Room Classroom – EPIC – "What Does Welcome Look and Feel Like?"
Childcare Available



form, the 2025/2026 Youth Group permission slip, and the Youth Media Policy form. Here's what to do with them:

- If you are a youth parent, please fill out all three forms and bring them/send them with your youth to the first youth meeting on September 7.
- If your children are younger than youth group age, only fill out the RE registration form and bring it on September 21.

If you don't have the ability to print the forms at home, don't worry, we'll have copies of them here that you can fill out on the spot. If you have more

than one child, you only need to fill in all the parent information on the registration form for the oldest child.

New Program Year, New Room Use

This is our second year sharing our spaces with Beth Tikvah Hebrew School on Sunday mornings. We're going to be arranging the rooms differently this year so there will be two rooms that will be used exclusively by Beth Tikvah during RE time and three rooms exclusively by UUSGU. We hope that this will help reduce congestion in the hallways and confusion about who belongs where on any given Sunday.

New Program Year, New (slightly different) Program

This year we are going to be offering three different 'styles' of RE programming--Sunday Funday, EPIC, and Spirit Play (extended). Each week there isn't a spirited service we will have one of these three 'styles' of programming. How are they different? Who goes to which program? Read on to find out.

Sunday Funday is our most laid-back style of programming and is open to all ages of student pre-K and up. Yes, including youth if they want to join us. These Sundays will each have a themed story/discussion and activities. Our first Sunday Funday is September 21st. Its theme is Welcome (back) to Our Community and we will be reviewing the RE covenant we created together last year and doing a cooperative art project together that will hang in the stairwell going down from the Fellowship Hall to the RE classrooms. There will be 4 Sunday Fundays this program Year.

EPIC stands for 'Equal Participants in Community' or 'Everyone Participates in Community' and is a one-room schoolhouse model originally written for elementary-aged RE children, but open to all, even youth. We will do two EPIC focuses this year--"Welcome" (which will be the first half of the year)

helps children learn about how we welcome people into our community and ways that we can help children (and adults, too) feel welcome, and "Worship" (which will be the second half of the year) helps children learn about the different parts of our worship service here at UUSGU and includes planning a worship service that children, youth, and families will present in June. There is one session of EPIC most months. We would especially love for the youth to join us for the Worship focus starting in March.

Spirit Play (extended) is just like regular Spirit Play, but for a wider range of students (up to 5th grade). As our RE cohort of children ages up, we decided rather than breaking up our current Spirit Play group into two classrooms, we would keep this learning community together and expand the Spirit Play environment for older children. All students will start out together for the story and wondering questions, but the more advanced students will have access to a wider selection of free choice activities in the second part of the lesson, including our maker space and LEGO building areas in The Big Room. There are two sessions of Spirit Play (extended) most months.

New Program Year, New Bulletin Board

We have moved the bulletin board for RE and Youth information to the board closest to where the kid's table is in the fellowship space. Check there for an up-to-date RE and youth schedule for the month, Youth meeting dates, family night information, and much more.

New Program Year, New Clipboards

We have new, colorful clipboards for our coloring and activity sheets this year. There will also be two sets of sheets, some simple mazes and coloring for younger kids and some harder mazes and word/number puzzles for the older children.