

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee: Youth Religious Exploration 2025-2026

Read about our programs below, and [please fill out this form for each of your children who would like to participate!](#)

[Volunteers: Sign up here to assist in RE.](#)

For more information, contact the Director of Religious Exploration:
Alessandra Nysether-Santos at religious.exploration@uutallahassee.org

Sunday Programs

Nursery Childcare [infant - preschool age]

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

On Sundays, the Nursery begins accepting children at 9:30am. The nursery functions as a child-directed play space with a variety of toys and materials to incite experiential learning and collaborative play and cleanup for our youngest children. This space is best generally for kids between 0-5 years old. Weather-permitting, children may play outside.

There will be at least one UUCT employee and one volunteer to care for the children in the Nursery. Members of the RE team will guide additional children from the Sanctuary to the Nursery after the Time for All Ages. Parents and caregivers are expected to sign out their children by 1:25pm to allow the RE Team time to clean up.

Elementary RE [elementary age]

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Elementary Religious Exploration (RE) for children from 6 years old to 12 years old takes place in Room 2 during the Sunday service. Members of the RE team will guide the children from the Sanctuary to the pod after the Time for All Ages. Weather-permitting, children may go outside.

At least one UUCT employee and one volunteer will facilitate ongoing religious exploration utilizing UUA curricula and other trusted sources. These classes are carefully planned to be age-appropriate and engage the many ways that children learn, including stories, art, games, drama, music, and ritual.

Parents and caregivers are expected to sign out their children by 1:25pm to allow the RE team time to clean up.

Youth Group [middle & high school age]

Youth Group for teens from about 13 years old to 18 years old is developing a schedule for this new church year!

We may continue Breakfast CLUUB: Once a month on Sunday mornings before service from 9:30-10:30am, teens will meet in Room 3 for a youth-led and advisor-supported space to explore community and faith formation with their peers.

And Thursday Night YG: Once a month on Thursday evenings, we get together for an event such as bonfires, movie nights, and more!

Upcoming RE Events and Updates

Blessing of the Backpacks 8/10/24 during service *Students and teachers of all ages are invited to join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks, a multigenerational service. Learners and teachers can bring a backpack, device bag, or notebook to be blessed by our UUCT community during a service for all ages. Participants on Vimeo are invited to participate as well for a long-distance blessing!*

UUCT Parenting Circle 8/12/25 from 8:30-9:30pm on Zoom *Join us the second Tuesday of the month in an online space after bedtime for parents and caretakers to be together and support one another. Zoom link:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85316835444?pwd=ZzmQa5lUDWQ7F9ifDSkMrTBpkzua2j.1>

Meeting ID: 853 1683 5444

Passcode: 197500

2025-2026 RE Family Breakfast Families are invited to join Alessandra, the DRE, and the childcare provider team for a beginning of the church year family breakfast on Sunday, DATE?, at 9:45am. Breakfast items will be provided, so please be sure to RSVP to Alessandra with how many are attending and dietary needs.

In this breakfast, we'll talk about RE updates for the new church year, volunteer needs (with the kids, behind the scenes, and in other ways), and plans for the Fall and Winter.

Fall 2025 RE Kickoff Sunday 9/14 during service The "Grand Opening" of the Fall and Winter RE Season begins the week after the ingathering and water communion.

Banned Book Read In 10/10/25 6:30pm RE will host a Banned Book Read In on Friday, October 10, from 6:30-7:30pm! Join us in the Sanctuary to celebrate our freedom to read during Banned Books Week (10/5-10/11). More details to come.

Why a Banned Book Read-in? [Read this article from UU World about Book Bans.](#)

Trick or Treat the Church: 10/26/25 from 1-3pm Join us after service on Sunday, October 26 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee for a frightfully good time! All ages welcome at this community event with costume parades, treats, and games! Volunteers needed to decorate doors and hand out goodies! More details to come.

Generosity Drive 11/2 - 11/23 RE will explore charitable giving of time, talent, and treasure in action this month.

TREASURE: On Sundays throughout November, our friends and members of all ages are invited to bring in small change, dry food, and new or gently used clothing to contribute to our RE Generosity Drive.

TIME AND TALENT: This month, RE also encourages kids and families to choose one of the following service opportunities to help with as they are willing and able:

11/8/25 UUCT Church Workday from 9am - 2pm

11/15/25 Manna on Meridian Distribution Day at Faith Presbyterian from 8 - 10am

Other projects?

Interested in Our Whole Lives? Email me to be on the OWL updates list. We hope to offer a K-1 session later in 2025 and are considering offering the [Parents and Caregivers as Sexuality Educators](#) learning as well. I'd also love to hear about your interest in middle and high school sessions as well as adult sessions.

[Our Whole Lives \(OWL\)](#) was created because "honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities.

Interactive workshops and activities engage participants, while step-by-step instructions for program planners and facilitators help ensure success."

RE Volunteers

Congregation members and friends are encouraged to volunteer in Religious Education! We always need additional adults to assist on Sundays, and there are many other ways for volunteers to support as well. Young ones (13+) can help too!

[Interested in volunteering or being employed as a backup childcare employee?](#)

Contact the DRE for more information!

Past RE Events and Updates

Wednesday Childcare (depending on choir schedule and requests for childcare)

Choir Practice (and other UUCT programming) [ages 0-12] 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

On Wednesdays that we have UUCT Choir practice, the Nursery begins accepting children at 6:00pm. Childcare during UUCT programming emphasizes child-centered play with a variety of toys and materials to incite experiential learning and collaborative play and cleanup for our children. Weather-permitting, children may play outside.

There will be at least one UUCT employee and one volunteer to care for the children in the Nursery. Parents and caregivers are expected to sign out their children by about 8:15pm to allow the RE Team time to clean up.

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Tallahassee
Youth Religious Education
*2025-2026***

RE at UUCT updates!

Scan the QR code or visit the link to learn more.



<https://forms.gle/3MfhM2NFf1nqtJXp7>

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