

Family Programs

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.)

Lifespan sexuality education classes are offered throughout the year on a rotating basis for the following age levels: K-2nd grade, 4th-6th and 7th-10th.

Neighboring Faith Family Field Trips

Several times a year, educational visits to different faith homes within our community will be scheduled to build community and learn from our neighbors.

How We Teach

"The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own;

Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;
Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;

Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs;

Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect or peculiar notions,
But to prepare them for impartial,

conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;

Not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought;

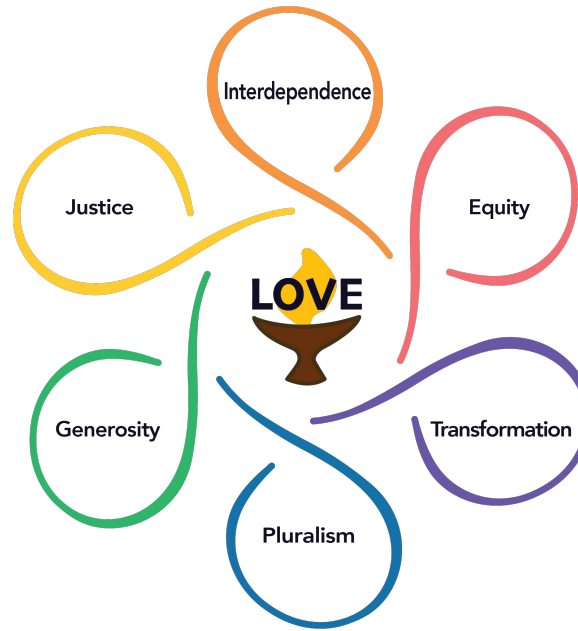
Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment.

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul... to excite and cherish spiritual life."

-William Ellery Channing

1780-1842 (Unitarian Minister)

Our UU Shared Values



Contact Us

Lisa Lawrence
Director of Family Ministry

Phone: (623) 875-2550

Email: familyministry@uusurpriseaz.org

Website: www.uusurpriseaz.org

FB: UUC Surprise Family Page

Weekly Sunday Services:

10:30-11:30 a.m.



UUC Surprise

17540 N. Ave. of the Arts
Surprise, AZ 85378



**Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Surprise**

2025-2026

Religious Education

Programs

*for Children, Youth and
Families*



Neighboring Faith Family Field Trip to a Sikh temple

About our Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Surprise is a non-denominational, non-doctrine church where ALL people and faith traditions are welcome. Ours is a liberal religion that values the individual spiritual journey and focuses on making the world a better place through deed, service and living out our shared values. These values are the most important things we teach, but we also give children building blocks to form their own beliefs. In addition to religious education classes, families and children have opportunities to interact with the congregation, take part in social events, family service projects, visit neighboring faiths, multi-generational services and celebrate diverse holiday celebrations throughout the year.

Infants Through Age Four

Although infants and toddlers are welcome to stay with their parents during service, we now have supervised nursery care available every Sunday between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Parents must sign children in and out with attendants and may leave a bag with care items. Parents must stay on the premises. Changing tables are also available in both restrooms.

2025-2026 Curriculum

Ellery Church Mouse

Ages 3-1st Grade

This 12-session curriculum is based on J.L. Shattuck's Ellery Churchmouse video series and introduces children to spiritual vocabulary in a fun and engaging way. The elementary curriculum contains discussion questions and activities designed for kids in grades pre-K through 5.



Our chalice, which we light for peace, love, hope and unity

Wonderful Welcome

Ages 3-1st Grade

The intangible gifts explored in Wonderful Welcome are all components of welcoming itself, a core Unitarian Universalist value. This program helps children understand and practice other values central to Unitarian Universalism such as friendship, hospitality, and fairness.

Antiracist Kitchen

Grades 2nd-6th

"What if talking about racism was as easy as baking a cake, frying plantains or cooking



"Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins", a production from the 2023 holiday season

Cont'd. rice?" Not only will children be introduced to food prep basics, but our UU shared values will be explored as they hear stories and prepare recipes from children's authors who share their experiences with food, culture and racism.

Love and Help

Grades 2nd-6th

Love and Help is a curriculum designed by Gail Forsyth Vail for children who want to investigate what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. The activities are designed to help children better understand themselves, their family, their community and their faith.

Soul Matters: Crossing Paths

Grades 7th & Up

Is an exploration in religious pluralism that will introduce students to various world religions and their practices. This interfaith exploration is designed to nurture one's own spiritual self, as well as create a deepened sense of UU identity.