

A Prayer For Our Children

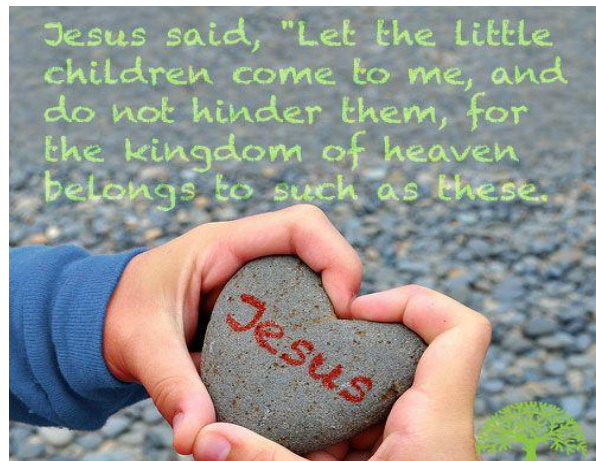
With open hearts and minds we allow the power and presence within to guide our thoughts, inspire our dreams and move us into action.

We recognize what precious gifts our children, youth and families are and know that they brighten the world with their faith and love.

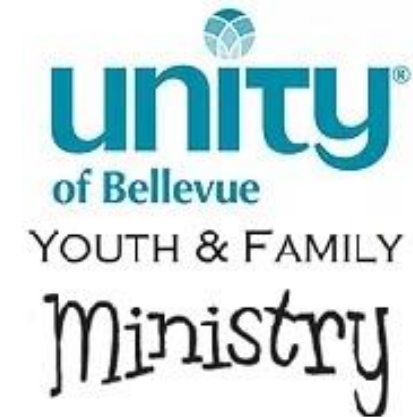
We provide a safe and nurturing environment that allows that faith and love to unfold.

We draw to us all the resources, people and ideas needed to bring this idea into manifestation.

We acknowledge God as our source and know that in co-creating we bring these ministries into being.
For it is through the wonder and power of God that all things exist.



Parent Handbook



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W E L C O M E !



A place to let your divine light shine!

You can contact Sabrina
Youth & Family Programs Director
in the following ways:

Phone 425-495-0396
E-mail: SabrinaM@unityofbellevue.org



"I feel so blessed to be a part of the Unity of Bellevue community as the YFP Director! If there is anything you'd like to see happening with our children, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your support of our children!"

**Many blessings and we look forward to seeing
YOU each week.**

Sabrina McFadden

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to get involved in their children's spiritual education. Handouts will be available to let parents know what we are learning now.

Spiritual Educator Training

Training

Training for our Youth Education Team are held regularly.

National

Our Youth Education Team is participating in different conferences and trainings held by Unity Worldwide Ministries Northwest Region.

For the safety of everyone, we perform criminal background checks on all those working with our youth!

Lesson Structure

- Greeting Circle:** A time of, community building, reconnecting, celebrating and prayer.
- Love Offering:** We sing the “Magic Penny Song” together and a child gets to collect stuffy hearts. It is symbolic for the offering in the sanctuary.
- Experience:** We use open ended, interactive activities that encourage the students to express what we have learned, what has meaning to them and to awaken it in their hearts.
- Sharing:** We allow time for the children to share what the lesson meant to them.
- Closing:** In a closing circle we end our Sunday lesson with a song along with some music and movement.



Who We Are

As a spiritual youth community, we provide a safe place of love and acceptance where our children and teens experience the recognition of their oneness with God.

Our purpose is to create programs and experiences that invite the Divine potential in each individual to grow and expand.

Using the tools of affirmative prayer, Living Curriculum, meditation and service, we practice Unity truth principles as a way of life.

What We Believe

Unity's 5 Basic Principles – For Children

1. God is all good and active in everything, everywhere
2. I am naturally good because God's Divinity is in me and in everyone
3. I create my experiences by what I choose to think and what I feel and believe
4. Through affirmative prayer and meditation, I connect with God and bring out the good in my life
5. I do and give my best by living the Truth I know. I make a difference



Program Overview

A Living Curriculum

The vision of, A Living Curriculum, is to empower children and youth to use their spiritual wisdom to fulfill their soul's purpose; to empower parents to see themselves as the primary spiritual educators of their children and youth; to empower a spiritual community to function with unity in diversity; to inspire a world educational community by its philosophy, process, programs and products.

Registration

Spiritual Education classes are available for children 0 to 18 years old during the **10:30 A.M. service**.

Registration forms are required for each student.

Arrival

To ensure the maximum safety for the children, a parent/guardian is required to sign students into the youth wing and sign them out immediately following the service.

**You can drop of your students starting at 10:20 A.M.
Please drop students off no later than 10:30 A.M. so:**

- We can greet each student
- They can take advantage of the pre-session activities.
- They can join us at the beginning of the experience rather than walking in after we started.
- Some students find it difficult to walk into an activity that is already in progress and may not feel a part of the group.

Students dropped off after 10:35 A.M. may not be able to join the program for that Sunday!

Please sign your child out as soon as the service has ended!

Toys

Please leave toys at home or in the car. Our students are busy with the day's spiritual exploration and toys distract them from the program and group building experiences of the class.

Attire

Please dress students in clothing that they are comfortable in. Please note that, while every precaution is taken, we sometimes do activities that may soil their clothing.

Please dress younger children that make trips to the bathroom easy for them.

Recuperation Policy

If students are working through a health challenge, they will have difficulty participating in class and need the caring attention and healing atmosphere of their home.

For safety reasons, sick students are not allowed to participate in the program.

Health challenges include the symptoms of fever, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, and/or eye infections.

Classes

Nursery infants to 2 years

Our nursery staff lovingly interacts with our youngest members, affirming the Christ Presence within them. Our infant classroom is filled with wonderful books and toys.

UniTots 2 to 4 years

Young children are noticing more about the world around them and their place in it. They are full of curiosity and questions and are developing the capacity to respond in a loving way to others and to take responsibility for their actions.

Generally they...

- Love to have stories read to them.
- Love to help out in the classroom
- Need consistent rules; responds to clear and simple expectations.
- Like a lot of physical activity.
- Learn best by playing, exploring and role play

Curriculum Focus for this Age Group

- To help the children understand that they are loved just as they are.
- To explore Jesus as a human being and as a model of love and goodness.
- To help the children understand that they, too, have the spiritual potential to act in ways that bring out their best selves.
- To help the children develop their spiritual potential to express love and caring for others.

Depending on the number of students participating in classes, they may be merged together for a better experience.

UniKids K to 5th grade

These students are energetic, curious, open imaginative, and enthusiastic. They are learning what it means to be in relationship with each other. They still need adult help and reassurance but also need time on their own to explore new ideas and concepts. They are developing the ability to talk about and explain their ideas.

Generally they...

- Have growth and development of their small motor skills so writing is becoming easier
- Can listen well but may not always remember what they heard. Repetition is important.
- Love new ideas and asking questions
- Learn well through games, hand-on activities and exploring how things work

Curriculum Focus for this Age Group

- To see Jesus as a person who had challenges and difficulties but created a relationship with God that helped him to move through these challenges with loving kindness and generosity.
- To use who Jesus was and how he behaved to create a model of behavior for their own lives.
- To help the children explore how they, too, can let God live through them as an expression of life, love and kindness.



UniTeens 6th - 8th grade

Preteens are going through huge physical and emotional changes. They can be unpredictable and hard to read as they swing between childhood and adulthood. They are making an attempt to move into adulthood but can still be drawn to things in their childhood. Preteens are excited to be moving into the teen years but also scared of the unknown. They are exploring who they are, and their peers are very important to them.

Generally they...

- Need experiences and activities that give them the opportunity to interact with their peers.
- Need rituals that help them to mark turning points in their lives.
- Need opportunities to take on major responsibilities in the classroom.
- Need to be with adults who are compassionate with all they are going through yet able to give loving guidance.
- They need to feel a sense of belonging.
- Like to focus on things they think are important. Need a lot of physical exercise
- Developing an interest in social justice and fairness

Curriculum Focus for this Age Group

- To understand that Jesus was a human being who lived and is also the example of God moving in and through us.
- To know they are inherently good, and they have choices as how they can show up in this world.
- To begin to understand that Jesus is our elder brother and way-shower.



Y.O.U. 9th - 12th grade

Teens are going through rapid changes and continued growth spurts. They face a lot of temptations and constant peer pressure. They spend a great deal of time worrying about how others view them. They have the ability to think through problems on their own and want to be respected for who they are. Their emotions are often mixed, sometimes feeling like an adult and ready to assume more responsibility and sometimes feeling like they can't handle it alone.

Generally they...

- Need adults who will help them think through choices for their lives and to affirmation that their dreams for their lives are possible.
- Want to spend time with their friends
- Need the opportunity to explore how they personally feel about what they study in class
- Are able to engage in abstract thinking and discussion
- Have their own ideas about spirituality
- Are interested in exploring ideas and beliefs outside their own.

Curriculum Focus for this Age Group

- To be receptive to the idea that God is a mental attitude that works in and through us.
- To understand that they are the creator of their own world through the thoughts they give power to and what they choose to see and believe.
- To gain the ability to look past the literal appearance of a situation and to focus on the good the situation brings.
- To know that the Kingdom of God is within them.