

FEASTS & FESTIVALS 2008-09

SEP. 14 BIRTHDAYS

Purpose: To get acquainted, sample the curriculum, to feel a kinship to children all over the world, and to acknowledge that each one of us is special by celebrating our birthdays.

Theme: Under the sky all people are one family.

SEP. 21 RAMADAN

Purpose: To learn about the Muslim religion and culture and to introduce the children to one of the most important Muslim holidays.

Theme: UUs believe that it is important to understand other people's religion.

SEP. 28 ROSH HASHANA/YOM KIPPUR

Purpose: To introduce the autumnal Jewish New Year, and to feel the joy associated with new beginnings as well as the responsibility to correct old mistakes.

Theme: UU's believe in forgiving others, and in trying to right the wrongs we have done.

OCT. 5 ST. FRANCIS DAY

Purpose: To honor the famous Francis of Assisi and affirm our interdependence with nature.

Theme: UUs believe in gentleness and compassion towards all living things.

OCT. 12 JOHN MURRAY

Purpose: To introduce a Unitarian wonder story in which a chapel is build in order to await the coming, someday, of a preacher who will speak of a loving god; just such a preacher sails to America, determined never to preach again... until he meets the builder of the chapel.

Theme: UUs believe in the power of love and hope, and that if you act like good things will happen, they often do.

OCT. 19 SUKKOT

Purpose: To build a sukkah, reenacting the Biblical thanksgiving festival of the Jewish people, a favorite holiday for children.

Theme: UUs rejoice in the harvest, the sun and the rain, and the seasons of nature.

OCT. 26 HALLOWEEN/UNICEF DAY

Purpose: To learn about the historical meaning of Halloween, to discuss our fears, and have fun.

Theme: UUs believe that we all have fears of the unknown.

NOV. 2 DIVALI

Purpose: To experience the delight of the Fall Festival that welcomes the Hindu goddess of good fortune, Lakshmi.

Theme: UUs believe that we should think through our own religious beliefs.

NOV. 9 UU PILGRIMAGE

Purpose: to celebrate the courage of our UU “pioneers”
Theme: UUs believe that we have a responsibility to protect religious freedom

NOV. 16 THANKSGIVING

Purpose: To learn that if we work together, we can create wonderful things
Theme: UU’s believe in cooperation and sharing

NOV. 23 THANKSGIVING FAMILY SERVICE

No RE Classes

NOV. 30 THANKSGIVING RECESS

RE Recess Program

DEC. 7 HANUKKAH

Purpose: To celebrate the winning of victory for religious freedom, and the story of the light that would not go out.

Theme: UUs believe that people should have the right to choose their religion.

DEC. 14 CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Purpose: To introduce the familiar Christmas story of Mary and Joseph and other Christmas Traditions.

Theme: UUs believe that each night a child is born is a holy night.

DEC. 21 HOLIDAY FAMILY SERVICE – Hanging of the Greens

No RE Classes

DEC. 30 HOLIDAY RECESS

No RE Classes

JAN. 4 HOLIDAY RECESS

No RE Classes

JAN. 11 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Purpose: To honor the birthday of a great American; to retell the story of his courage and of the role played by Rosa Parks in the struggle for justice; to celebrate the power of non-violence.

Theme: UUs believe in taking a stand against injustice.

JAN. 18 SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Purpose: To learn how women were treated unfairly.

Theme: UUs believe that men and women are equal.

JAN 25 CHINESE NEW YEAR

Purpose: To celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year

Theme: UUs believe that we can all help to make good things happen.

FEB. 1 BUDDHA’S BIRTHDAY

Purpose: To introduce the children to the life of Buddha and his teachings.

Theme: UUs believe that being religious means living a good life.

FEB 8 MARDI GRAS

Purpose: To introduce the story of Jesus' life, and the Christian world's observation of Carnival, Ash Wednesday, and Lent.

Theme: UUs believe that Jesus was a loving teacher who helped people to understand each other.

FEB. 15 WINTER RECESS

No RE Classes

FEB. 22 WINTER RECESS

RE Recess Program

MAR. 1 PURIM

Purpose: To introduce the story of Easter and to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Purim

Theme: UUs believe that you should stand up for what is right.

MAR 8 JAPANESE CHILDREN'S DAY

Purpose: To experience the delight of the Japanese Children's Day through the making of carp kites; to emphasize the need for gentleness, courage and determination in both boys and girls.

Theme: UUs believe that boys and girls need to have both gentleness and courage.

MAR. 15 ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Purpose: To learn the real story of the patron saint of Ireland, and to celebrate a bit of Irish culture.

Theme: UUs believe that when we share other peoples' celebrations, we feel closer to them.

MAR. 22 POWAMU

Purpose: To awaken children's reverence for the gift of life through a bean planting ceremony; to introduce Hopi religious beliefs.

Theme: UUs believe that no one really knows for sure what is beyond death.

MAR. 29 PASSOVER

Purpose: To introduce children to the ancient Jewish festival of freedom with its symbols, story and songs.

Theme: UUs believe in freedom for all people.

APR. 5 EASTER

Purpose: To share the story of Jesus' death; to rejoice in the renewal of life.

Theme: UUs believe that although Jesus died, his love and teachings live on

APR. 12 EASTER FAMILY SERVICE & EGG HUNT

APR. 19 SPRING RECESS

No RE Classes

APR. 26 BANNER DAY

Purpose: To review the year and create a “feast and festivals” banner to hang in the Worship Room during the “Bridging” service.

Theme: Working together towards a common goal is both challenging and rewarding.

MAY 3 CELEBRATE OUR UU YEAR

Purpose: To review and celebrate our UU year.

MAY 10 TRANSITION SUNDAY

We will visit the 4th grade class to meet next year’s teachers and learn about the curriculum.

May 17 BRIDGING SUNDAY

Last Day of RE. Children will meet in their classroom and then sit with their classmates and teachers in the Worship Room for the Bridging Service. Plan to stay for the Picnic following the Bridging Service.