

2016-17 COMING OF AGE PROGRAM FOR 9th & 10th GRADERS

Coming of Age is being offered this year to all 9th and 10th graders. The purpose of the Coming of Age program is to teach our youth the many ways that the principles of Unitarian Universalism can be lived as we each develop our own sense of spirituality and belonging in the world. Ultimately, the program is meant to give our youth a greater sense of self as they begin to integrate what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist into their own lives.

Coming of Age helps participants develop their Unitarian Universalist faith by exploring the values and beliefs they hold, and by identifying intentional steps toward making connections that may help sustain a lifelong Unitarian Universalist identity and practice. Curriculum is made up of different learning experiences for the youth: they study UU history and theology; they experience worship both in the sanctuary and in their class; they examine a wide range of topics from personal beliefs and attitudes to global politics and issues of the day. Participants will go on retreats, design a service project, ponder life's "big questions", play games and laugh a lot!

Finally, each youth will be paired with a mentor, a member from the congregation, who will help the youth develop a personal faith statement. Mentors will sometimes join the class and will guide the youth in their journey to define their religious beliefs. They will discuss spiritual beliefs and values, so give some thought to what kind of qualities you would like in a mentor. We will ask you to suggest three church members as potential mentors for your youth. These may or may not be people your youth already knows.

INFORMATION ABOUT COMING OF AGE:

There will be a **Coming of Age parents meeting on Sunday October 16**, following the second service. We hope you will join us.

Coming of Age facilitators are Elaine Bowen, Laura Sinclair, Jeff St. Clair and Chris Dum.

Sessions will take place twice a month on Sundays from 1:00 -3:00 pm. The proposed dates are: Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4 & 18, Jan 8 & 22, Feb 5 & 9, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 22, May 7 & 14. The program culminates on May 21 with a COA worship service and community recognition.

The Registration Form will be available at the Parents Meeting or at the church on Sunday. The fee for the program is \$75.00, with an additional cost for the camping retreat in the spring. If the fee poses financial difficulty to your family, please let me know in confidence and the fee will be decreased or waived.

The COA program is a powerful experience for the youth. Parent involvement and support is essential.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Lily Rappaport, dre@kentuu.org