

August 31, 2008

Dear Friends:

It's that time again! The beginning of a new church year is upon us. As some of you know, many exciting things are in store for us this year including: educational community events for youth, families, and adults; stimulating adult religious education classes; community service and social justice work; a new small group series; trainings in worship arts; formal childcare for services and events; and OWL classes for youth.

That being said, all members and regular attenders of First U.U. (**including adults!**) who wish to take part in these offerings **need to register for the adult religious education, child and/or youth program(s)**. There is no cost to register and only one form is needed per family or household. You may be asking: why should I bother registering when I can just show up? While unregistered folks are always welcome, there are a myriad of benefits for those who formally registered for our programs:

- **Adults who register as a part of the adult R.E. program** will have the opportunity to influence what classes we offer and when. Registered adults will also receive email and/or phone reminders of classes, be invited to join our Facebook community, be given priority notices about rescheduled or newly formed classes, have access to free teaching materials in some classes, and will get a nice gift from the Minister of Faith Development.
- **Youth who register in the Bridges program** will be matched with a mentor who will help them complete learning experiences and make progress towards bridging. Registered youth will also receive regular communication about events and classes and have the opportunity to request scholarship funds for field trips and extracurricular events. Registered youth will also be invited to join our Facebook community, have the opportunity to sign up for ongoing program such as OWL, and will receive a gift bag full of goodies to prepare them for the new school/church year.
- **Children who are registered** by their caregivers will receive a gift bag, a birthday gift, and special invitations to events throughout the year. Caregivers who register their children will be notified by email or phone of all programs, events and classes for them and their children and will have the opportunity to request scholarship funds on the rare occasion that a church event costs money. Caregivers who register their children (ages 0-12) can also request childcare for church-related events and programs for which childcare is not normally offered (so that parents can go to adult classes, Vespers, small groups, etc). We ask that such requests be made at least 72 hours in advance to the Minister of Faith Development (and although we do our best, we may not always be able to honor your request!)

Registering keeps us updated on your emergency contact information and any special needs you may have. Registering also helps us here at the church by letting us know who is interested in what and helping us plan for snacks, teaching materials, space, class facilitators and all the other details that can make a good program even better. To register, please fill out [this form](#). Parents of children and youth should also fill out a youth/child permission slip which is available on the website ([here](#)) or from the church office. **Once you fill this out, please give it to an usher, send it in to the church office, or drop it off in my box.** And then, pat yourself on the back for making a good decision!

Yours truly,

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