

## Spring Membership Events

June 6 Celebrating Membership  
June 7 New Member Recognition

July 11 Connections Dinner

2009-2010 Program schedule is currently underdevelopment.

## Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

# Welcome to First Unitarian Church



Imagine a religion where  
people with different beliefs

Worship as one faith

A religion where there is room for questions

With more than one right answer

Where people can be mindful of the sacred

And intellectually truthful at the same time.

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## Getting To Know Us

In order to assist you as you are deciding if this is the right place for you, we have a number of events for you to get to know us better. These events are not mandatory, but they are available should you choose to attend.

Let us know if you will need child care, and we will try to provide it.

### Get Acquainted Gathering

Recent guests of our church are encouraged to join Reverend Mark Stringer and church members for an informal reception with hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

### Programs and Pathways

Would you like to learn more about our community? Join us as we discuss the various programs offered at First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. Learn about Small Group Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Caring Ministry, our Wednesday Evening program, Religious Educational opportunities, and much more.

### Our American Roots

Join us as we watch a DVD about the History of the Unitarian Universalist church in America. Shot on location at UU churches and historic sites, this video features leading voices in Unitarian Universalism today and yesterday. We will have time for discussion afterwards.

### Roots and Branches

Join Rev. Mark Stringer for an introduction to Unitarian Universalist history, philosophy, and polity. Mark will cover some of the trends in UUism over the years, give a brief overview of the theology of "creative interchange," and answer your questions.

## UU Kids Class

This orientation course is designed to give a brief overview of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist in the same manner that we introduce adults to our tradition. There are four elements in this orientation:

1. Who Are You?
2. Who Are We?
3. What Is True and Right?
4. We Need a Truthful, Fair, and Free World

### Connections Dinner For Families With Children In The RE Program

This is a potluck dinner designed to connect new families with families already in the church RE program. This is a great opportunity to allow the children to get to know other children who will be in their Religious Education classrooms.

## Membership Process

When you decide to become a member of the church, it will be a big moment for you and for us.

We have a responsibility to see that you are welcomed and that you find a place in our midst where you can make friends and continue your spiritual journey.

In return, we ask four things of you:

- 1) **Presence** - Attend church services and programming on a regular basis (regular basis is what is comfortable for you)
- 2) **Participation** - Get involved in the life of our community in ways that grow your soul. Sing in the choir, join a small group, teach a class, serve on a committee, be a youth advisor, provide music for a service, work with others on a social action project...the possibilities are unlimited!
- 3) **Pledging** - Make and pay a regular pledge of financial support.
- 4) **Pass It On** - Share your pride in our religious community by talking to people about our church.

When you have decided you are ready to join, please complete the membership packet including the *Intention to Join* form, *Giving Ministry* form, and the *Pledge* form. All forms are found on the greeter's table and on the website. Please return forms to Lori Emison Clair at least one week prior to the new member ceremony.

### New Member Ceremony

During the regular Saturday and Sunday service, you and other new members are invited to join the congregation in a responsive reading, sign the membership book, receive a few gifts, and be officially welcomed into the church.