

## Children's Voices

. . . is the name of **the new FUUSE children's choir**, re-created Spring 2009!

The Children's Voices choir has recently consisted of about 12 children, ages 4 – 8, and several older children have created an offshoot choir that also participates in singing in the sanctuary. The Children's Voices Choirs embrace listening, cooperation, and the intention of expressing the joyful noise of our spirits together! Children are invited to sing regularly in the sanctuary on Sundays, and to recognize themselves as an integral part of our multi-generational community, where **all are heard, valued and welcomed**.

We have collected music from various sources including FUUSE' previous choirs' materials, collections of traditional songs and hymns sung in the UU tradition, recent suggestions and discoveries of UU friends, and the "Rise Up Singing" group singing songbook. **We sing songs about peace, love, joy, nature, justice, and our connections in friendship**. We are grateful to all who have contributed to help the new Children's Voices thrive at FUUSE this year!

The same **UU principles which guide** and nourish the whole congregation are used to guide us in our music making journey together:

- ❖ Every person is important
- ❖ All people should be treated fairly and with kindness and courtesy
- ❖ We should accept one another and be free to learn together as a team
- ❖ We should be free to search for what is true and meaningful
- ❖ Every person should have a voice in things that affect them
- ❖ We should use the skills we are developing to help build a peaceful, free, and fair world
- ❖ We should use the skills we are developing to help build a healthy world

Children's Voices perform a sanctuary sing about once every month, and rehearsals are scheduled 2x/month, 4–5 pm on selected Sundays, in the Sanctuary space. Rehearsal format allows that parents may leave the building from 4:00-4:45 (after signing children in and leaving emergency contact information for facilitators), and all return by **4:45 pm for "show-and-tell" time**, when the children can share new songs, parents can prepare to be involved with

home practice of songs, and facilitators can answer questions and have valuable collaborating time with parents. **PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILED CALENDAR.**

**Volunteer facilitators for the choir are Janis Tierney, Chris Chance, and Neal Zweig.** Janis and Chris have enjoyed years of choral singing with the church and elsewhere, and Neal lends special creativity to instrumentation as a professional lead guitarist as well as being a regular music-maker at FUUSE. Janis has naturally adopted the role of musical director, and brings her wisdom as a professional teacher to the Choir as well. Janis' grown children were raised within the church, and she was also Chair of the Child RE Committee at FUUSE when they were growing up. Janis has taken a special interest in organizing and helping with rehearsal of older children and youth interested in singing opportunities within our FUUSE community and sometimes participating in a special leadership role with the younger choir. Chris provides vocal direction, coaches on voice exercises, and assists with rhythmic movement opportunities during rehearsals and has emerged as the coordinator-through- email of the younger Children's Voices group. As a practicing Psychologist, Chris is pleased to be a part of community building with the youngest members of our church, and hopes the joyful lessons learned in choir will have a lasting positive impact on all the singers. Chris and Neal are also parents of Sasha (age 7), who is expected to never miss a rehearsal!

Volunteer choir facilitators coordinate with professional church staff including Reverend Kendra Ford, Interim Director of Religious Education Laura Stevens, and Minister of Music Mary Doane. **(Please see elsewhere on this website for more info on Children's Sunday programming under "Child RE", and under "Adult Choir" for more on how to participate as a singing adult under the direction of Mary Doane)** Please see the detailed Children's Voices choir calendar below, which is also posted in the community room, for scheduling information to date. For additional information or to sign up to join the choir, please email Chris Chance at [cchance33@hotmail.com](mailto:cchance33@hotmail.com). Detailed email reminders and updates will be provided to parents who request to be on Chris' "Children's Choir Email Group List". Chris can also be reached by phone at 603-568-9206.

# **Children's Voices Schedule 2010 - 2011**

## **Sanctuary Sings**

October 17

November 14

December 19 (Solstice)

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

January 23

February 13

March 27

April 10

May 1 at the Woman Girl Ceremony (early evening)

May 8

June 19

## **Rehearsals 4-5 pm on Sundays**

Oct 3 and 31

Nov 7 and 28

Dec 5 and 12

Jan 9 and 16

Feb 6 and 20

March 6 and 20

April 3 and 17

May 15

June 5 and 12