



# THEME BASED RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## **What is “Theme Based”?**

It is a model that fosters whole-church engagement around monthly themes that we are sourcing from a collective of churches called “Soul Matters”. Worship services, adult education small groups and aspects of the Religious Exploration program will foster both group and self-exploration of the themes.

Each month will feature one open-ended concept (for example; welcome, courage or hope) that will be tied into aspects of RE through our Sunday Morning Classes, Children’s Church (see below), and “*Fun For All*” activities. In addition, there will be built-in supports to help your family explore each monthly theme outside of church as well.

## **Children’s Church**

The first Sunday of each month, K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in “Children’s Church”. They will attend the beginning of the adult service as usual, but when they head downstairs, they will meet in one room for a time together modeled loosely after a typical service. The service will introduce the theme for the month, and it will feature music, a message, and a “hands-on” activity. Middle School students will have the opportunity to take leadership roles. (*High School Students will discuss the monthly theme in their class from 11am to noon*)

## **Sunday Morning Religious Exploration Classes**

On the remaining Sundays, as in previous years, Preschool through Middle School classes will each follow a central curriculum for the year (chosen from the “Tapestry of Faith” collection by the UUA). There will also be an *intentional* focus on how the monthly theme is present throughout the class material.

## **“Fun For ALL” Activities**

Each month will feature a few family-friendly activities open to the church and wider community that will be related to the monthly theme. Activities may include; Movie Nights, Outdoor Activities, Service Projects, Educational Opportunities, and MORE!

## **Family Exploration**

Finally, Weekly Parent Emails will include information based on the monthly theme. Parental reflections on the theme and guiding discussion questions about the theme will be included, as well as articles, links and other resources to help you implement the theme into your family life.