

Just Say "Know"

Our Whole Lives

Offered by

Winchester Unitarian Society



Comprehensive Sexuality Education

7th Grade & Beyond

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Please browse this brochure for information and visit the following sites

Unitarian Universalist Association
<http://www.uua.org/re/owl/index.shtml>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Whole_Lives

Please direct any questions or inquiries to Rebecca Kelley Morgan, Director of Lifespan Programs, via email; Rebecca@winchesteruu.org or by calling the church at **781-729-0949**

A mandatory parents orientation will be held prior to the beginning of the program. Attending does not commit you to the program, but offers you an opportunity to review program materials and meet members of the teaching team. In order to build a trusting environment, we cap the class at 18 young people

To attend the **Parents Orientation on September 27th, 4:00 p.m.**, please RSVP to Rebecca Kelley Morgan.

PARTICIPANT DETAILS

At this congregation the course is offered to 7th graders, although we often have 8th graders in the class as well. The curriculum is designed for the middle school years, 7th-9th grades; depending on each child's needs, age of enrollment can vary.

This program is open to members and friends of the Winchester Unitarian Society, and until our enrollment cap is reached, members of the greater community.

WHEN IS OWL OFFERED?

This Year we will be offering the program through the school and program year for 1.5 hour sessions Sundays at 4:30 PM. The group begins meeting in mid October and will complete the course in late April, New England weather permitting. The group does not meet during public school vacation weeks and holiday weekends.

IS OWL FOR OUR FAMILY?

As your child approaches the high school years, there are many social pressures on them and their families. As a congregation and faith committed to the support of all families, faced with the challenge of guiding children into healthy adult sexuality, we offer the *Our Whole Lives* Program to **seventh graders**.*

Our Whole Lives, also known as "OWL" is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum; developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

Whatever your religious persuasion, we encourage candid communication between young people regarding choices and consent around sexual and social matters. Many parents of children who participated in the program are grateful that their child's peers were in the conversation as well.

In this course, we do not avoid candid dialogue around traditionally taboo topics like abortion and homosexuality. As the following quote from one of the lesson plans reads, "We commit ourselves to justice, equality, and compassion for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person requires us to act on our values."



WHY THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM AND WHY IN A CHURCH?

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture.

The program assumes that parents are the primary sexuality educators for their children, and that we, the faith community are here to help.

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?

Our program facilitators are trained by the Unitarian Universalist Association and/or Planned Parenthood. Each year, they bring a variety of life experiences as parents, mentors, health professionals and educators to this program. Our teaching team members volunteer their time and skills as sexuality educators in this important ministry to our young people during their formative years.

Winchester Unitarian Society

478 Main Street
Winchester MA. 01890
781-729-0949
Winchesteruu.org