

Affirmation Ceremony 2019 – Introduction

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Affirmation is analogous to Christian ritual of first communion. It is an age on both a cognitive, moral and emotional level on which the children are able to make somewhat independent spiritual and life choices. It is a declaration or proclamation of our 2nd/3rd classes reaching a milestone in our community.

Affirmation is dynamic, based on higher truths. Words of affirmation should be true. Spoken in love and deployed to point our children upward, not just inward. 7 & 8 year olds have some common characteristics:

- They love nature and animals
- They are developing a sense of ethics, concerned with right and wrong
- They respond well to responsibilities
- They are sensitive to criticism, somewhat unsure, even moody
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They are at the very cusp of a huge leap to better impulse control and have the internalization of a conscience. They have reached “the age of reason.”

While at CUUC they have been grounded in their faith formation and aligned with the 7 principles. They have acquired the ability to reflect on their burgeoning values and use those guideposts in exploring complex and sometimes difficult topics such as:

- How did life begin?
- What does death mean for people and animals?
- Is there a God – what is God?
- Why are some people bad?

Our children are on the path of seeking truth and becoming more comfortable with what is right over and over again. By examining big questions, they are encouraged to examine, explore, and discover. Here before us are our CUUC children:

- innocent, yet wise beyond their years
- silly, playful, simplistic, yet precocious
- effervescent and animated, yet insecure

We are proud of these two classes and we are reminded that with every child that is born, there comes an accompanying promise;

- the promise of continuity between generations
- the promise of wisdom, maturity and growth
- the promise of these very young people reaching new heights, making what is negative in the world positive
- the promise of a loving heart and soul
- the promise of facilitating goodness to a higher, powerful level

Everything they learned this past year will arm them with the tools to become inspired, passionate Unitarians, young adults, students, and human beings.