



ACCOTINK
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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NEWS RELEASE

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***ACCOTINK CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
OFFERS NO-COST COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON GRIEF, LOSS***

-- Event aimed at helping children and adolescents deal with life change --

BURKE, VA – The Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church (AUUC) in Burke, a spiritual community that supports a wide range of beliefs, will host a free community workshop on Mon., September 24, for those eager to learn how to help others, especially children and young adults, deal with death and loss. The gathering, scheduled from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., will be led by two chaplains well versed in grief counseling.

“Many children and adolescents confront the realities of a range of losses, from functional and situational, to the death of a parent, sibling or loved one,” explained a member of AUUC’s pastoral care team, which is sponsoring the event. “This workshop, led by chaplains with extensive experience with grief in youth and families, provides information and tools for integrating loss in life.”

The workshop will be led by Kathleen Ennis-Durstine, senior chaplain for the Children’s National Medical Center and her colleague, Jamie Brooks, a staff chaplain. The primary audience is expected to be drawn from local clergy, pastoral care staff and volunteers, youth-oriented religious education directors and staff, teachers and social workers. The session is titled, “Talking with Children and Adolescents about Grief and Loss.”

The goal of the workshop is to provide attendees with a support mechanism for addressing the needs of children, teens and parents involved with a loss. The exchange will also provide participants a chance to understand death and loss, and develop new ideas and tools for pastoral and other means of supportive intervention.

Because of limited seating, interested participants are asked to RSVP by Fri., Sept. 21 by calling the Accotink Church at **703-503-4579**, or e-mail to accotinkuuc@earthlink.net. AUUC, a congregation of nearly 325 members, was begun in 1980 and is located off the Fairfax County Parkway at 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, Va.

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