

orthodox Christian churches and is celebrated on Ascension Thursday. In the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church, the Ascension of the Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Ascension is one of twelve Great Feasts. Unlike other religious leaders, Jesus did initially die, returned to life, and entered heaven.

### From Church of the Larger Fellowship-Kid's Talk

One of the great things about summer is that wonderful summer fruits and vegetables (like peaches, apricots, cherries, nectarines, tomatoes, green beans and zucchini) are ripe and available. Have you ever thought about the food you eat as a justice issue? Our current study/action issue for the UUA is ethical eating. When something is "ethical" it is right with your conscience, done in accordance with your principles. There are a surprising number of ethical issues that come with eating. Agriculture (growing fruits, vegetables and grains) often uses a lot of pesticides (bug killers) and herbicides (weed killers), which can harm a lot of things beyond what they're meant to kill. Also, produce often comes to our grocery stores from more than a thousand miles away, which uses a lot of fuel, contributing to pollution and global warming. If you eat meat there is always the question of how the animals are treated, plus their effect on the environment.

June is a great time to talk with your family about trying to eat local and/or organic foods. Is there a farmer's market near you? It's a lot of fun to go and support local farmers and get the freshest, most delicious fruits and vegetables. Some organic farmers even have programs where you pay a certain amount of money to get a box of fruits and/or vegetables every month during the summer. That can be a great way to try things you might never have tasted, as well as get produce that's healthy for people and nature both. And, of course, you might even be able to grow some of your own vegetables at home. If anything tastes better than a homegrown strawberry, I don't know what it is! (And there's no driving involved at all.)

### Pre-Teen / Explorers review

What **didn't** the Pre-Teen Explorer group do at the Spring Retreat?! Among teamwork-building games and activities, indoor and out, youth contemplated the meanings of Palm Sunday and Easter by asking what Jesus would heal today if he were here, flesh and blood, through the laying on of hands. To commemorate the magic, we made our own special gloves and brainstormed some global issues that we would address ourselves if we had such a power, like battling the AIDS epidemic, feeding the hungry, and supplying the poor. Conversation moved from "what if Jesus were here to fix these problems" to "what can we do about these problems." Those who witnessed the stage reenactment of Jerusalem's



hoard of poor and sickened people welcoming the medically-trained macroeconomist Jesus into the city may remember some other ailments that topped our list. In addition to learning the 7 Principles Song, sung to the tune of "Do-Re-Mi", a reference sure to last the ages, youth enjoyed some quality discussion with Rev. Wieder on the importance of cross-cultural communication. As a tribute to the Easter tradition of the egg hunt and the UU principles of fairness and compassion, we first shared the candy-inspired joy by welcoming the other RE groups onto the playground for our first egg hunt. Later that day, the Easter Bunny was informed of the group's cleverness and decided to amp up the challenge with an egg hunt like no other. Most eggs, hidden throughout the park and forest surrounding the resort, were accessible only by keen detective skills and group cooperation.

To end their presentation Saturday evening, the children sang the seven principles. (to the tune of DO-RE-MI) by Carol Benson Holst, DRE, UU Church of the Verdugo Hills, Las Crescenta, CA.

- ONE -- Each person is important
  - TWO -- Be kind in all you do
  - THREE -- We're free to learn together
  - FOUR -- And search for what is true
  - FIVE -- All people need a vote
  - SIX -- Build a fair and peaceful world
  - SEVEN -- We care for Earth's lifeboat
- That will bring us back to me and UU... (repeat)----

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