

DLE Board Report – April 2017

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- 10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth
 - Sunday programming for Children and Youth throughout the 2016 - 2017 program year will complement the Sunday Services in our efforts to move closer to congregational thematic ministry. This thematic calendar will be exploring the source traditions, and considering wisdom from around the world.

Sundays in April

- As a congregation we will be considering the themes of rebirth and renewal as part of the Sunday Services. Birth and the beginning of new things can be a mysterious and wondrous time – as all of the cycles of life are. This month we’re going to explore the beginnings of the cosmos and the beginnings of the earth as told by our good friend The Universe! Through the book duo, “Born with a Bang – The Universe Tells our Cosmic Story” and “From Lava to Life – The Universe Tells Our Earth Story”, we will consider the wonders of our blue boat home and of the universe. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in using science to tell us about how we are related to other living things in our interdependent web of life.
- Before service on 4/30 we will have our Annual May Day Ceremony – all are welcome as we remove last year’s ribbons and dance the May Pole for this year (lamppost by the rear entrance to the building). Children interested in participating should join us at 9:45am. This event is weather permitting – if it is raining we will postpone until May 7th.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

- “The Everything Seed” – by: Carole Martignacco

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out for April is on 4/14 – we currently have 8 children registered, and it is fully staffed. Numbers are a little lower this month than normal because it is Good Friday.
- Family Potluck and Movie Night – We hosted our second Family Potluck and Movie Night on Friday, April 7th. 3 families attended – including one brand new! We intend to continue to offer these periodically.

- Spring Break Open Play – Although we only had one family join us for this, it was still worth trying! Perhaps next year we could try to organize a specific spring-break outing (examples – group trip to the library, Boardman Nature Center, etc.).
- After Service Family Lunch – Laura Matchett, LE Committee Co-Chair, is working to organize parents in an attempt to get families together after Sunday services. Ideas included going to restaurants as well as meeting in people’s homes for potluck. We hope to launch this informal gathering in April.
- Up North Pride Week 2017 – I have begun working with the Up North Pride organizers to assist with programs for children and families this year. This is an excellent way to connect our Welcoming Congregation with our local LGBTQ community and their allies.
- Specialty Class Summer – I have begun brainstorming Specialty Class Summer, as it will begin the first Sunday in June.

Adult Programming: *As mentioned in previous reports, adult programming is an important part of the Lifespan Experience Program of this congregation. In fact, our committee has had, and continues to have an Adult Programming Representative to help us connect with and serve this portion of our congregation. We are fortunate that John Hoffmann is in this role for the second year.*

Updates for this Month:

- Brewing Community: *This group will meet at Terra Firma on 4/27 from 5-7pm. Everyone is welcome at this family friendly gathering, and locations are specifically chosen based on their family-friendliness, and availability of food and non-alcoholic options.*
- Wednesday Supper & Program: *This supper group is formally chaired by Sandra McDonald and reporting on this group is included herein because of the group ministry function that the supper itself serves. The programming that follows or is associated with the supper is coordinated under Lifespan Experience.*
 - Wednesday Supper: 5:30pm-6pm social time, 6pm supper. 1st/3rd Wednesdays are potluck, 2nd/4th Wednesdays are \$5/adult, \$3/child 10 and under.
 - Wednesday Programming: Together with the Arts and Exhibition Committee we offered a discussion with the photographers behind the PROTEST! Exhibit after Wednesday Supper on 3/22. Attendance at the supper was over 35 people, and there were 49 people in attendance at the discussion. It would be worth considering continuing these kinds of exhibit-related events if the draw proves to be this large.
 - We will begin signing people up to host meals in their homes this summer when the program shifts to its summer schedule in June.

- CUUPS: The CUUPS small group ministry (Covenant of UU Pagans) gathers the last Wednesday of the month for lunch from 12:30-1:30/2pm at the Blue Tractor.

Staffing Matters:

Regular Sunday off in April is 4/23.

Policy:

I continue to work with the Safe Congregation Response Team. The SCRT now meets regularly to proactively discuss safety matters and procedural questions.

Attendance: This section is revised per request to include numbers from the previous year month-to-month in comparison format. *Please recall that the attendance taken in class is generally more accurate than the count that greeters attempt to make during the service. Greeters look in on the class at a single point during the service. It is very common that a child is in the bathroom when they count, or that children are dropped off directly to the classroom later/after the start of class – families do not always run on time. It is also sometimes the case that a child might start off in the nursery and then switch over to the classroom part way through the service – something our classroom volunteers and staff take into account since we have parents signing children 5th grade and under out of the classrooms and nursery each week.*

March 2016 – Sundays	March 2017 - Sundays
03.06.16 – N=2, 10	03.05.17 – N=1, 8
03.13.16 – N=2, 8	03.12.17 – N=2, 5
03.20.16 – N=1, 7	03.19.17 – N=1, 7
03.20.16 –N=1, All Congregation	03.26.17 – N=2, 5
March 2016 FNO	March 2017 FNO
03.11.16 - 10	03.10.17 – FNO = 8