

DLE Board Report – February 2018

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- 10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth Sundays in February

We've been working on some exciting projects in our "UU & YOU at Hogwarts" curriculum as part of our consideration of poverty, so we'll be continuing this unit through February, as we transition into sharing acts of kindness. At this point we have finished up making scarves to donate to Safe Harbor, and we will continue collecting items for the Goodwill Housing Support Services wish list through the end of February. The donation tub is located in the hallway near the kitchen, and a copy of the wish list itself can be found nearby (or via this link: <https://goo.gl/cxxSWf>)

Suggested readings for families/parents this month:

- Our book this month is once again connected to our focus in our "Hogwarts" program – this month we have another book dealing with poverty & hunger – this time based on a true story! **"Katie's Cabbage" by: Katie Stagliano** *"...is the inspirational true story of how Katie Stagliano, a third grader from Summerville, South Carolina, grew a forty-pound cabbage in her backyard and donated it to help feed 275 people at a local soup kitchen. In her own words, Katie shares the story of the little cabbage seedling and the big ideas of generosity and service that motivated her to turn this experience into Katie's Krops, a national youth movement aimed at ending hunger one vegetable garden at a time".* <https://goo.gl/Ewu4XS>

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer. We are especially in need of additional "professors" for the Hogwarts program March-May 2018. Finding volunteers to cover when I am scheduled to be out is always difficult.
- **Soup-er St. Paddy's:** The Lifespan Committee will help with the "Soup-er St. Paddy's" lunch following the service on 3/18. This idea, announced by Rabbi Chava at the Program Council on 2/11, is a spin-off on the old "Chili Cook-Off" that we did for several years. It will support the "caring" aspect of Rabbi Chava's vision for our committees – (that all committees should embrace themes of learning, serving, and caring) and will support the spirit of beloved community.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out was on 2/9/18 – we had 4 children attend, although 8 were registered (this is a rare occurrence). We were also fully staffed. At its January meeting, the Lifespan Committee spent some time brainstorming how to create more community for parents around this program – how to get them engaging with one another in an effort to have them connect in new ways. One idea that we are considering is adding a "parent mixer" during the drop off time from 5:30-6pm. The idea is that if we can get the parents to mingle a bit more together, this could turn into stronger friendships, and then into a small group ministry for parents. (This is also something being tried in other ways in other congregations as I have noted in my "Death of

Sunday School” report.) Additionally, relative to Friday Night Out, I think it’s *very* important to note that the connections/bond amongst the children who participate in this program is stronger, in my opinion, than the bonds I see being created amongst children in more visible areas of our congregation (I do see this happening with the small number of children who attend Wednesday Supper). Unlike Sunday mornings with its irregular attendance, this group (and the few who attend Wednesday Supper) generally has a very consistent group of attendees, with children bounding into the building to see their friends each month. This is a program that children *ask their parents about*. I think what we actually need is *more* of this kind of opportunity for children to connect, as well as consider the ways in which we can encourage parents to connect with one another.

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: Brewing Community will gather from 5-7pm at The Workshop Brewing Company on 2/8 and 2/22.
- Wednesday Supper Schedule: Wednesday Supper is on its regular schedule – 1st/3rd Wednesdays are potluck, 2nd Wednesdays are \$5 (adult)/\$3 (children 10 & under), and 4th Wednesdays are pizza night with the cost of the meal (including salad, snacks, and dessert) to be shared by the participants.
- Wednesday Program: We currently have Liz Kirkwood from FLOW scheduled to give a talk on 2/21 at 7pm. This may get rescheduled though if we are unable to secure enough RSVPs to ensure Liz a respectably-sized audience.
- Adult Lifespan Experience Connections: We are looking forward to our first “Branches” Adult Education class of 2018, led by Rabbi Chava and myself. In late 2017 adult participants met to explore the “Roots” topic of *Dialogue* – now we’ll apply that experience to a subject. Together we’ll be reading Karen Armstrong’s “A Compassionate Life”.

Staffing Matters:

I will not be able to take a Sunday off in February due to the Sunday service schedule.

I have completed the “Death of Sunday School” course through the UU Institute, and have included a report with a summary and my thoughts as an addition to this report. While the full report contains far greater detail, some of the ideas that we need to consider around this topic include: the changing needs/dynamics of families (increasingly more single parent households, parents who have to work multiple jobs, families impacted by custody agreement schedules, increasingly busy extra-curricular schedules for children, etc.), systems of power and privilege, long-term models for engagement, and the implicit and explicit messages our programs and approach to congregational life send, etc. I am likewise taking the follow-up course called “The Future of Faith Formation”, likewise led by Kim Sweeney from the UUA.

Attendance:

January 2017 - Sundays	January 2018 - Sundays
01.01.2017 – No Children’s Programming or Nursery Per Rabbi Chava	01.07.18 – 12, N = 0
01.08.2017 – 7, N = 2	01.14.18 – 12, N = 2
01.15.2017 – 5, N = 1	01.21.18 – 10, N = 3
01.22.2017 – 5, N = 3	01.28.18 – 5, N = 4
01.29.2017 – All Congregation Service, N=2	
January 2017 FNO	January 2018 FNO
01.13.2017 – FNO - 10	01.12.18 – FNO - 8
Membership Meeting Childcare: 01.29.2017 - 2	