

DLE Board Report – September 2017

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

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

In September we head off to Hogwarts as we launch our "UU & YOU at Hogwarts" program. September 10th is Resumption Sunday - all ages will remain in the sanctuary. The last two Sundays in September will be spent building excitement for our Opening Ceremony (October 1st) here at the UUCGT Campus of Hogwarts. As a reminder, the "Hogwarts" program is for prek-8th grade. High School youth will be connected with mentors and begin to engage with committees they are interested in as they continue their journey connecting with the adults of the congregation.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month include:

- *Ravenclaw Reader: Seeking the Meaning and Artistry of J.K. Rowling's Hogwarts Saga, Essays from the St. Andrews University Harry Potter Conference* - by John Patrick Pazdziora (Editor), Micah Snell (Editor)
- *Into the Pensieve: The Philosophy and Mythology of Harry Potter* - by Patrick McCauley

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer, and we continue teacher recruitment for our 2017-2018 Program Year.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out was on September 8th – we had 7 children participate and it was fully staffed.
- Coming of Age – Work has been put on hold on this for the time being – Heather Shumaker is pursuing a parent-led group for those youth that are interested.
- 2017/2018 Curriculum – Registration has begun for the 2017/2018 program year. We currently have more children/youth enrolled at this point in the year than I have ever experienced – 24. That's not to say that we haven't had a larger program than that in the past, or that I don't anticipate more registrations. My experience has been that turning in registration forms is not generally a priority for people – we will have regular families show up almost every week who never get their paperwork turned in – thus the difference between the number of registered children, and the number of children who participate. It is unusual to have so many registrations actually turned in before the start of the program year. I attribute this to the incentive that I offered – if children we registered early they would receive a personalized "Hogwarts acceptance letter" in the mail – something which was a big hit. (See Ellie Norma's excitement below)



- **Classrooms!** – Classrooms are almost entirely decorated for the Hogwarts program, and have fueled the excitement amongst the children.

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/Wednesday Supper Program:** Brewing Community has returned to its 2nd/4th Thursday of the month schedule, with this month featuring the Workshop Brewery. Wednesday Supper has returned to its normal schedule, however the group will be eating at Sledder's on 9/20 since the building is rented to the Jewish Congregation.
- **CUUPS:** The CUUPS small group ministry (Covenant of UU Pagans) typically gathers the last Wednesday of the month for lunch from 12:30-1:30/2pm at Robby's Taqueria Mexicana in Traverse City. We are beginning plans for the 2017 Pagan Fair – a big hit amongst the community which brings lots of new people in our doors every year. Once again, this is a self-sustaining event – fees charged to vendors to have booths pay for the supplies we purchase for the event.
- **Adult Lifespan Experience Connections:** We will begin offering our “Dialogue in Community” class this month, and have included some information about the class on the LE insert in August Orders of Service – please see the attached PDF.
- **Crop Hunger Walk:** John Hoffmann continues his work on the Crop Hunger Walk, organizing our congregation's participation in the October 8th event.

Staffing Matters:

I did not take a Sunday off in August, and did not take Labor Day weekend off as I had previously intended due to a lack of volunteers. I will be taking Sunday 9/17 and Sunday 9/24 off instead as my two Sundays off over the course of last month and this month. I will be taking

some PTO while I am in Ireland for Northwestern Michigan College later this month, however I intend to work remotely while I travel responding to email, working on Beacon/Flash materials, following up with volunteers, etc.

Attendance:

August 2016 – Sundays	August 2017 - Sundays
08.07.16 – N=1, 3	08.06.17 – N=1, 1
08.14.16 – N=0, 3	08.13.17 – N=2, 5
08.21.16 - NURSERY WAS CLOSED DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEERS. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEERS.	08.20.17 – N=3, 5
08.28.16 – N=1, 2	08.27.17 – N=3, 5
August 2016 FNO	August 2017 FNO
08.12.16 – 7	08.11.17 - 7