

DLE Board Report – March 2018

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

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

We're very excited to be starting our "Environment Horcrux" in March, and we will continue this through April. We will spend our time engaging in lessons and stories that promote environmental stewardship, as well as considering the ways in which we can get involved in our community in this regard. This will include reaching out to UUCGT committees who engage in this kind of work, thus connecting the generations of our congregation in new and wonderful ways. We are specifically working with Lauren Keinath from the landscaping committee to explore the impact of native plantings and invasive species, as well as learning about soil samples and planning a children's garden. Thus far the children who have been part of the planning have been very excited. They are also planning "fort improvements" for their fort in the woods this spring, and have begun work on a flag for their fort.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month:

This month we have a very timely book not only about our connections with the earth, but about peace in our world.

A Prayer for World Peace by: Jane Goodall *"...Jane Goodall is a world-renowned naturalist who brings her passion and her quest for understanding between all the Earth's creatures to the fore in this beautiful and affecting prayer for world peace. She asks us all to rise above our dogmas, to bring a spirit of generosity to the living world around us, to pray for justice and for those who are suffering. Illustrated with rich and colorful artwork, this is prayer that's both personal and universal and one that will speak to people of all ages from all backgrounds".*

<https://goo.gl/4LZkVP>

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer. We are fortunate for the next couple of months to have members of the Landscaping Committee volunteering with the children.
- **Soup-er St. Paddy's:** The Lifespan Committee will help with the "Soup-er St. Paddy's" lunch following the service on 3/18. It has been wonderful working with the various participating committees to plan this event.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out was on 03/08/18 – we had 7 children attend (4 cancelled at the last minute due to illness). We were also fully staffed.

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 3/8 & 3/22.
- 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: Although we had Liz Kirkwood from FLOW scheduled to give a talk on 2/21, we rescheduled her for April due to low RSVPs for the event.
- Adult Lifespan Experience Connections: Rabbi Chava and I have launched the first “Branches” Adult Education class of 2018, and the group is reading Karen Armstrong’s “12 Steps to a Compassionate Life”. Thus far the conversation has been wonderful, and those who participate regularly (roughly 12-15) seem to really be engaging with the materials.

Staffing Matters:

My regular Sunday off in March will be 3/25. I was unable to take a Sunday off in February.

I have informed Rabbi Chava of my upcoming travel schedule for Northwestern Michigan College as a Study Abroad leader, and have brought my questions regarding PTO, leave, preparations, and time away to her attention.

I have sent my “to-do” item in regards to the “Death of Sunday School” report I submitted last month as a separate document.

Attendance:

February 2017 - Sundays	February 2018 - Sundays
02.05.17 – 9, N=4	02.04.18 – 3, N = 3
02.12.17 – 8, N=2	02.11.18 – 5, N = 2
02.19.17 – 7, N=1	02.18.18 – All Congregation Service
02.26.17 – 7, N=3	02.25.18 – 1, N = 2
February 2017 FNO	February 2018 FNO
02.10.17 – FNO = 8	02.09.18 – FNO = 4