

DLE Board Report – May 2018

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- Family Ministry Update

At this time, due to the proposed reduction in DLE hours for the coming year, I am pausing further work on this initiative. In my professional opinion, the number of hours proposed for the 2018-2019 program year would not support a total revamp of our approach and programming, despite how vitally important I think it is. Additionally, parents have been very difficult to get a hold of to garner input.

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

As we wrap up our Harry Potter curriculum and our year together at Hogwarts, we have spent time connecting the lessons and themes of the program to our 7 Principles, and will continue to do so throughout the month. We are likewise connecting the consideration of transcendentalist philosophy that is occurring in the sanctuary this month. This has involved a fair amount of modification of the HP curriculum on my part, but it has been important to connect these pieces of congregational life more concretely.

- Suggested readings for families/parents this month:

This month I am suggesting a lovely read-aloud book for families willed with “magic, adventure, friendship, and even a dragon who can't fly!” as a follow up to Harry Potter.

“Where the Mountain Meets the Moon” by: Grace Lin *A Newbery Honor Book*

“In the Valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Grace Lin, author of the beloved Year of the Dog and Year of the Rat, returns with a wondrous story of adventure, faith, and friendship. A fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon is a timeless story reminiscent of The Wizard of Oz. Her beautiful illustrations, printed in full-color, accompany the text throughout. Once again, she has created a charming, engaging book for young readers.”

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, it is difficult to find volunteers willing and able to work with our children. This will certainly need to be addressed if we are not moving toward including the children in more Sunday Services in the year to come, as the “Death of Sunday School” and “Future of Faith Formation” materials have suggested.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out will be on 05/11/2018. We currently have 7 children signed up and are 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.*

Updates for this Month:

- Brewing Community There will be no regularly scheduled Brewing Community in May. We switch to the summer supper/brewing community schedule at the end of May – Please see below.
- Wednesday Supper Schedule 1st/3rd Wednesdays are potluck, 2nd Wednesdays are \$5 (adult)/\$3 (children 10 & under). We switch to the summer schedule at the end of May, which is as follows: NO SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY MAY 23RD.
Brewing Community/Dinner Out: May 30TH – Rare Bird Brewery 5-6PM Social Time, 6PM Dinner.
- 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. Due to scheduling conflicts, this group may need to extend into the summer.

Staffing Matters:

I have been granted permission by Rabbi Chava and Staff Resources to travel to India as part of my NMC teaching duties 5/10-5/26. I will continue to be available via email while I am out of the country, and I will be working some hours remotely while I am out (once again, with Rabbi Chava’s permission). I will also use my regular Sunday off in May during this time. This travel will exhaust the majority of my remaining PTO for the 2018-2019 year (I will hold onto a couple of hours for emergencies in June). What time I am not able to cover with PTO will be unpaid.

Attendance:

April 2017 - Sundays	April 2018 - Sundays
04.02.17 – N=6, 9	04.01.18 – All Congregation (Easter), N = 1
04.09.17 – N=2, 3	04.08.18 – All Congregation (April Fools Service) N = 2
04.16.17 – N=3, All Congregation	04.15.18 – service cancelled due to weather
04.23.17 – N=3, 11	04.22.18 - 2, N = 2
04.30.17 – N=5, 8	04.29.18 – 1, N = 1
April 2017 FNO	April 2018 FNO
04.14.17 - 7	04.13.18 – 6 (several last minute cancelations due to the storm)

