

Lifespan Faith Development Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Achievements During the Last Year: Registration: 61 families and 107 children and youth were registered in this year's programs. Attendance: Children's RE conducted Sunday RE classes in person all year, with an average of 27 children present on Sunday mornings. (up from 24 last year, but still not back to pre-covid levels.)

YRUU: Though 20 youth were registered, attendance was usually between 4-8, with only a few youth having regular attendance. With 12 rising 9th graders and only 3 bridging seniors, YRUU should be much more robust next year.

Middle School: Middle school RE was separated from youth group for the first time since COVID. Attendance at Friday night youth groups was high, usually over 10, but Sunday morning RE numbers quickly dropped. Next year the Sunday morning curriculum will be Games that Build Community, in an effort to re-engage the middle schoolers on Sunday mornings.

Adult RE: OWL for Young Adults facilitated by Rachel, Kendra and Jane K-B; OWL for Older Adults facilitated by Rachel, Kendra and Jane K-B; Building Bridges for Adults; The Common Read—Pam; Article II Spiritual Reflection—Pam; Getting Your Ducks in a Row—Cynthia and Gretchen Luke with Amanda Morgan; Threats to Democracy Discussion Group—Jim Bohland; Introduction to Mindfulness—Jamie; Ongoing opportunities include—Meditation, Sunday Circle, Conversations on Faith and Anti-Racism Discussion Group

OWL (Our Whole Lives): This year 10 youth participated in OWL grades 8-9. Nine young adults and 14 older adults participated in the adult OWL programs.

Summer RE: This year the K-5 summer RE program will be LEGO ValUUES. It will run for ten weeks, between June 2 and August 4. Fall RE will start August 18. There will be no RE on August 11.

Teacher & Advisor Appreciation: Teacher appreciation will be included in the flower service on May 19 (the last day of spring RE) and culminate in an ice cream social.

- Community Service Activities: It's Scary to Be Hungry campaign for the Interfaith Food Pantry; Reverse Advent Calendar collection for the Interfaith Food Pantry; The Mitten Tree warm clothing drive for the Montgomery County Christmas Store; Egg Hunt supply drive for the Montgomery County Animal Care & Adoption Center and the Montgomery County Humane Society; Ongoing collection of food for the Interfaith Food Pantry in the RE lobby.

UUC Community Building Activities: The Buddy Project paired 17 adult and child buddies; Two Family Fun and Movie Nights—down from monthly, we offered one in December that was Holiday themed, and a Barbie Party in April. Both were lightly attended; Parent covenant group; Dancing through the Decades—Hosted by the Board; Chili Cook-off—Hosted by UUYA

Attendance: Attendance is still low compared to numbers of youth registered. Near the end of the year, numbers in the lower grades began to rise, and a few new families came in. The

middle school Building Bridges curriculum was not engaging. In the 2025-6 year, the Crossing Paths curriculum from Soul Matters will be used to study world religions instead.

Playground: The playground has been re-fenced, a new playground committee has formed. The challenge will be fundraising for and installation of new play equipment.

Committee Expenses for the Year: Documented with Bookkeeper and Administrator

How the Committee Supports the Mission and Vision of UUC: The programs of LFD are designed to help our congregants, regardless of age, to grow in their personal spiritual and ethical journeys. We emphasize covenant and compassion in all programs. Through our liberal religious education, we help children and youth create a bridge between our religion and other religions in the NRV, and to discover how they can make the world a better place through their own actions.

Goals of the Committee for Next Year: Continue to build our sense of community, especially across age groups. Engage larger numbers of children and adults in RE offerings. Increase level of bonding and commitment in the YRUU group. Implement a new Coming of Age Program for the 8th and 9th grade, using "Becoming" from Soul Matters. Create an awesome playground that is inviting to all ages.