

DLE Board Report – January 2016

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- As most of you know, due to low volunteer levels as well as low enrolment, we have had to make a programmatic shift in what we offer for children and youth on Sunday mornings. This shift, and the approach that we are using going forward was discussed in collaboration with the Lifespan Experience Committee, and this information has been included in multiple weeks of the FLASH e-newsletter. Additionally, it has been communicated to parents of registered participants in this year's program.

As of January 1, 2016 there is no 9:00 a.m. Children's Educational Option. Childcare will be available when there is a 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Reflection or 9:00 a.m. Adult Learning opportunity.

10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth

Children (preK-5th grade) and Youth (6th-12th grade, 12-18yrs) are invited to join their families in the service through the Story Wisdom. Following Story Wisdom, Children (preK-5th grade) will follow their teachers to the large classroom space. Youth (6th-12th grade, 12-18yrs) will join their teacher in the Office.

The prek-5th graders will gather as a single group to light their chalice, ring their bell, participate in their version of "joys and concerns", and the reading of a story. Following the story, the class can split into a prek-2nd grade class and a 3rd-5th grade group. In these groups they can discuss the book and engage in age appropriate activities. It will be at the discretion of the teachers if the total group that day warrants splitting up (for instance, there might be a total of 8 children that day, all of which are in one age group or another).

Parents of Children (preK-5th grade) should make their way to the classrooms/program wing of the building to sign their child(ren) out of programming following the service. There will continue to be special All Congregation Services when the children will remain in the entire service.

This Month for Children... While the adults in the congregation explore science and reason in the sanctuary, we will be exploring the universe through the following:

"Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story & From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells Our Earth Story" - by: Jennifer Morgan and Dana Lynne Andersen.

This Month for Youth... This month our youth will gather to focus on connecting and getting to know one another as they prepare to revisit the "Heeding the Call - UU Justice Maker" curriculum which was started in our 9am Youth program earlier this year.

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- We remain at a critical volunteer staffing level. We are in desperate need of Sunday morning assistance. Additionally, we have not had enough volunteer assistance to launch new programming for families and teens as was the intent for this year.

Families:

- Friday Night Out for January was on 01.08.15 – it was fully staffed and we had 11 children participate.

Adult Programming:

- Brewing Community has expanded under the organization of John Hoffmann (who we are very excited to have as our Adult Programming Liaison on the Lifespan Experience Committee!). The group is experimenting with gathering twice/month at the same location to create a sense of consistency. They will gather the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month through the end of May (when they, like Wednesday Supper switch to their summer schedule). This month they will gather at the Workshop Brewery on 1/14 and 1/28. Folks will gather for social fun from 5-7pm at this family-friendly function.
- Wednesday Suppers continue to function well. Participants likewise seem to be enjoying the once/month themed dinners this year.
- Wednesday Colloquiums: January
 - Kate Hansen - Adventuring Outside the Comfort Zone
Kate and her children will discuss the trip they made to Mexico last summer and their upcoming adventure.

Staffing Matters:

My regular Sunday off in January is 01.17.16

Additionally, I plan to take 3.5 hours of vacation to be on Beaver Island on Sunday, 01.31.16

Policy:

I continue to work with the Safe Congregation Task Force as necessary. When matters that fall into this category arise, they require a great deal of time and energy.

Attendance: class # is all age groups combined, N = Nursery

12.06.15 – 8, 1 – N

12.11.15 – Friday Night Out - 5

12.13.15 – All Congregation Service

12.20.15 – 7, 1 – N

12.27.15 – Childcare: 4