

UUCF Religious Education Report July 13th 2021 Board Meeting

Religious Education on Sundays:

We have concluded our weekly RE children's RE classes on Zoom. Attendance was steadily declining as we entered summer and as all of the children, parents and teachers became, understandably, "zoomed out."

We have developed a plan for the summer that would incorporate some in-person elements (see below for the proposal/plan).

R.E. Committee and Teen/Family Engagement:

The RE Committee continues to meet every month to keep the momentum going with regard to volunteer action and regular opportunities for family engagement. We have regular, monthly activities for families, all organized by the RE Committee and parent volunteers. These activities include: the drive by food drive, planned family zoom activity, and parent "time out" zoom get together.

Aside from working toward engagement, the RE Committee has been looking ahead to build a strong framework not only for when we return in person, but moving forward. The committee has outlined a foundation for RE Curriculum which outlines the goals or focus for each age group each year. These goals would be on a 3 year cycle (i.e. OWL, Coming of Age, and World Religions for younger HS or Junior High, etc.). In conjunction with the curriculum, the committee is putting together a curriculum calendar to ensure that we stay on track. (see below for outline).

We are also discussing the logistics and planning for returning to in-person church and what that means for R.E.

Additionally, the RE 8th principle workshop taskforce is planning the 8th Principle Workshop for families. The plan is for this to take place sometime in late August for our families (and any congregants who wish to join) as an introduction to and education about the 8th principle as well as covenanting as an RE community to affirm and hold ourselves accountable to living the 8th principle.

We have had scheduling conflicts over the last few weeks when it comes to our planning meetings. I am hopeful that we can get back on track with those. Otherwise, it appears that the workshop may need to be pushed back. Thus far, the taskforce has identified the desired goals/outcomes for the workshop and outlined both a part 1 and part 2 session. We are next working on gathering resources and speakers/facilitators to assist with the conversation. The taskforce includes: Sophia Ventura-Cruess, Carter Rakowski, Katrina Gomez-Enriquez, Hilary Key, and myself.

Other:

The R.E. Teachers and I have begun to consolidate the boxes in the Chapman lounge. We will be going to First Christian every Sunday to work on the R.E. boxes, plan the year, and do the summer activities. I will be inviting R.E. Committee members who have offered their help to come in to assist in this process. The goal is to have it all taken care over by mid-August.

Report respectfully submitted by Rachel White, Director of Religious Education

Summer 2021 RE Proposal

In-person, Outdoor RE activities (in the courtyard of the new location-need to confirm this is okay with First Christian)- open to all ages & parents included

Around 45 minutes-`1 hour - during service:

- Check-In
- Welcome
- Activity
- Wrap-Up & Goodbye

General Guidelines:

- Health check during check-in
- Masks
- Areas/stations set up 6 ft apart
- Individual snacks to take home
- Pick-up kits (30 min. before activity happens) w/instruction sheet for families who are not comfortable with meeting in-person

July 11th- SCIENCE (Rachel)- Kits that were handed out

July 25th (no Kami)- ART (Sarah)

August 8th- MINDFULNESS (Katie)

August 22nd- PLANTING (Kami)

September 5th- ?

Put into Calendar

Summer Content uses this as launch point: Summer Camp Concept

Young Adults

- Lead Camp Debenerville Activity
- Return & Meet w 11th & 12th to discuss what it's like in college, workforce/after high school
- Social Action
- Building the World we Dream About Workshop
<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwdaya>
- Service projects

High School 10th 11th 12th

- Mentorship time with younger HS: eg: be there for introduction of Coming of Age and talk to younger kids about it
- Connect with Young Adults: Young adults come back and discuss what college & the work force is like (around holidays and/or Summer), service projects
- Debenerville Work Weekend
- Youth-led worship service
- Service Projects - connect with Social Action
- Debenerville HighSchool-led activity
- Mentor Younger
- Coming of Age Mentors Brunch? Reunion & Coming of Age Reunion?
- Bridging-related curriculum
- Create Haunted House, Coordinate Talent Show, etc.
- Be the Change Curriculum - 6 90-minute sessions (extend?) (perpetuates 8th Principle) + One. Other Curriculum (music?)
<https://www.uua.org/youth/identity-formation/resources/btcp>
- bUUDies
- Current Event/Topical discussions
- <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth>
- Speak w Jr High Group: OWL, etc.
- OWL (10-12)

Junior High (7th 8th 9th)

- O.W.L.
- Coming of Age
- World Religions w Field Trips
-<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/cp-samples.html>
- Service Project Group for those not in group above

Upper Elementary

- Service Projects (in connection with all RE, collaborate with Social Action, Sunshine committee, etc.)
- Exploration of Morals & Ethics
- Self-Reflection of ethics & morals
- Outward reflection of ethics & morals
- Coordinate with other congregations for younger children's OWL
- Being a part of the UUCF community
- Incorporating congregants as volunteers in the classroom

Lower Elementary

- Intro to UUism
- Rituals
- Coordinate with other congregations for younger children's OWL
- Being in Community
- Service Project (in connection with all RE, collaborate with Social Action, Sunshine committee, etc.)
- Connection with the congregation
- Incorporating congregants as volunteers in the classroom

All Ages Activities

- Board Game Days
- Camping Trip
- Pool Party
- Family Sleepover
- Park Days
- Hike
- Ice Cream Social
- Talent Show

All Ages, Multiage, or Intergenerational/Family Ministry

- Youth-Led Service
- <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/multigenerational>
- All ages service (How often? Once a month?) - include parents - parents, families, teens co-create - focus on FUN!
- Family/Congregational days -after service (or on the 5th Sunday?): Fam brunch, Family game day, Family service projects x 3, Fam discussion group (8th Principle, etc) , Family art, Family music, Family Tradition Sharing
- Intergenerational Event/Activity (Tree planting, park day w may pole, Crop Walk, Ornament Making, etc.)

- Connect Seniors and Preschoolers - Story Time, Make Gifts, Crafts etc.

Rituals - things that (almost) never change

- Chalice
- Joys and Concerns
- Food Collections
- Go Now in Peace (join hands to say goodbye)

Traditions

- Child Dedication
- Family Traditions: Diwali, Lunar New Year, Santa Lucia, etc, that come from individual families (or from other members of the congregation or from the community)
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- Holidays
- De Beneville
- Coming of Age
- Bridging
- Volunteer Recognition
- End of year showcase (open house)
- Communion (water, flower, bread)