



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

The Religious Education Program Update

By Nancy Lay, Director of Religious
Education

This has been a very busy three months for those of us involved in RE here at UUFW. We are usually spending the summer months planning for our fall programs, and this summer was no exception. We knew that changes were happening around the language of our values at the national level after the General Assembly. We also learned that many congregations were adopting JET PIG (justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity) as a clever meme to help us remember these values. And so we began working with lesson plans to develop a program for our children.

Before all that happened, however, I spent a week in Highlands, North Carolina at *The Mountain*, a UU camp and retreat center, taking a UU course entitled "System Theory," which studies the ways in which strong religious congregations work. I came away energized and made some excellent connections with other directors of RE.

Back in Waynesboro, we began JET PIG lessons with our children. They named our stuffed pig "Jet Lynn," and built her a jet pack, because all our values are powered by love. Our lessons have all revolved around the newly identified values. We did an outdoor team challenge that illustrated equity as well as interdependence, and together we solved a jigsaw puzzle of the universe to

illustrate pluralism. On the Sunday before Halloween, the children wore their costumes and participated in pumpkin carving with their families. During recuperation from my recent illness, the RE team members stepped up to help out, including Erin Milnes, who taught the children some of our favorite hymns.

In September, we launched a youth group for the teenagers in our Fellowship. Emmett Crawford has volunteered to lead the group with the assistance of Renee Herrell, and the first meeting saw four attendees. The group will continue to meet on the third Sunday of the month during service time and will do a deep dive into world religions.

Another exciting development in RE is that three of us are now certified by the Unitarian Universalist Association as OWL trainers. OWL stands for Our Whole Lives and is a sexuality education program developed by the UUA, along with the United Church of Christ. Shannon Mills, Savannah Fersner and I have all been trained to teach this course to kindergarten/first graders and fourth grade through sixth grade. Our training was twenty hours on Zoom over the course of three weeks. It required us to actually teach a portion of a lesson to our classmates. We came away with heightened awareness of the value of this program for our children. We will be in discussion with Rev. Paul about ways to implement these classes in our Fellowship.

Finally, I attend the monthly meeting of what is called the Joseph Jordan Cluster. This cluster comprises Central Virginia congregations from Newport News to Blacksburg and includes ministers, retired ministers, and DREs. We meet monthly from 10-3 at various locations as a way to share ideas and reflections, as well as a way to offer support to each other. I have found it an invaluable way to establish contact with other DREs in the area.

Things got Spooky at the UUFW Last Week



New Art Show at the UUFW

Let the Fabric Do the Talking is the title of our new art show opening on November 10, and ending January 5, 2025. Daisy Schrock, a returning member of UUFW, is the artist/quilter bringing her skills to our hall. In her

artist statement, she talks about being advised by other quilters and artists to let her fabric convey the message by being subtle. However, she does not describe herself as a subtle person, but clear and direct. Her artwork conveys this approach. Daisy chooses to use mediums and methods that are bold and clear to the viewer, a technique that does deliver the message in her work.



UUFW Service Auction



We have done it again! The 2024 UUFW Service Auction last Sunday brought in almost \$12,400. We have our fabulous service auction team to thank for another successful (and fun) auction event.

Wayne Nolde is still hoping for a response to his [Help Wanted ad in last week's newsletter](#). Click on the link and scroll to Page 2 for details.

