

First Unitarian Church of Orlando
Monthly Program Report to the Board
Rev. Kathy Schmitz
October 2015 (Covering September 2015)

This monthly Program Report to the Board of Trustees is intended to be a summary for congregational leaders. It is posted to the web as a handy overview for anyone interested.

Worship & Music

This month we had two single service Sundays, the second of which was the annual Intergenerational Water Communion Service followed by an all-congregation pot luck lunch. Rev. Kathy led both Sundays as well as our return to double services on September 20. Intern Minister, Rachel Christensen led the other service.

Welkin, the Chalice Choir, and A Chorida all performed at the Water Communion. Welkin and the Chalice Choir, each covered an additional Sunday, as did the Folk Ensemble. As we return to the double service schedule, we are grateful to all our musicians for their continued commitment to providing quality musical selections at both services every Sunday.

Religious Education (Children & Adults)

The new Children's Religious Education program kicked off mid-month. Children and youth begin in the sanctuary for our 11:00 services before going to their classes. One new addition, is the role of Flame Carrier. Each week a different student will have the honor of transferring the flame from our sanctuary chalice to a lantern that can be carriers to the Enrichment Center and used to kindle the chalices in the children's rooms.

Our Pre-School through Elementary children (called the *Elements* and divided into *Earth*, *Wind*, and *Fire*) are experimenting with a new rotating, theme-based curriculum which will be offered as three terms match the congregations themes (*Water*, *Trees*, and *the Sun*) for the year. Our teens and tween are in meeting together program designed to encourage the youth to help choose the specific activities that will forward the class goals. Childcare is offered during the 9:30 service and Nursery care continues to be offered all morning. In addition to our regular classes, a new OWL (Our Whole Lives) series for the Kindergarten and First Grade kicked off.

We began the Fall Adult Religious Education program for Sunday mornings. It will feature a single offering in the Library each Sunday at 9:30 am with occasional 11:00 offerings. You can see the monthly rotation of offerings on [our website](#).

The fall [Welcome Home Wednesday](#) series started up and will run through October. In addition to dinner and worship, participants can choose from art classes, Bunco (games), Humanism, or participation in the Chalice Choir. Several offerings did not get sufficient sign up to run. Child care is provided.

Community, Care, & Connection

The Membership Team hosted a *Meet & Greet*.

In light of the Smithson's recent move, Nancy Wileden is the new Coordinator for the Pastoral Associates.

While a number of our groups slowed a bit over the summer, very few actually stopped. They are all at full gear. Dinner with Friends, Game Nights, and a Camping Trip have all been added to the calendar.

Our second annual Harvest Festival with pumpkin pancakes and UU Jeopardy was a big success.

The All Congregation Rummage Sale was held allowing us to encourage our environmental value of "re-use" while at the same time building community and fund raising.

Outreach & Social Justice

We began our 2015-2016 Share the Plate program for the year hosting the *Dress2Learn* program on September 20. You can see all our plans on [our website](#).

At least 14 1U members participated in the *Poverty Awareness Event* on Labor Day.

Communications

A second phase of website enhancements are underway. We continue to welcome you respectful feedback at webmaster@orlandouu.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy

Rev. Kathy Schmitz, Chief of Staff