

First Unitarian Church of Orlando
Monthly Program Report to the Board
Rev. Kathy Schmitz
December 2015 (Covering November 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, Ministerial Intern, Rachel Christensen, led worship twice. Rev. Kathy led once. Two worship services were intergenerational with Rev. Kathy, Rachel Christensen, and Regina Knabe collaborating. One highlighted the younger children and the other the older children. One service included a new member welcome.

Music this month included two Sundays with the Chalice Choir, one each with The Folk Ensemble, the Lyric Trio, and Aubrey Connelly-Candelario.

We have decreased the number of Intergenerational Services, since the Assembly Room, which we had thought would not be available due to renovation, remains available. Dates affected so far are December 6 and January 3.

Religious Education (Children & Adults)

Children's Religious Education continued through the month with a one week break for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Two opportunities were held to discuss this year's UUA Common Read, *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. The book deals with the death penalty and problems with the justice system. We used our fourth Sunday Adult Religious Education slot to offer an opportunity to watch and discuss Mr. Stevenson's TED Talk.

Community, Care, & Connection

The Membership Team hosted a *Meet & Greet*.

Members enjoyed a camping trip and a concert featuring folk singer Roy Zimmerman.

A wonderful Thanksgiving dinner was again shared by members and friends in Gore Hall.

Outreach & Social Justice

A retreat weekend was held for those participating in the *Beloved Conversation: Meditations on Race & Ethnicity*. 26 people participated. Each is now assigned to one of three small groups, each of which will have eight sessions between December and March to deepen their personal experience and understanding of these important issues. The program is being coordinated by Ministerial Intern, Rachel Christensen, who is providing the Board with monthly written updates. She is also offering an opportunity for those not in the program to be in dialog with a monthly after-worship session of *Wrestling with Race*.

Members and friends of the congregation participated in an informational picket at the Lake Eola Publix to encourage Publix to join the *Fair Food Program* created by the *Coalition of Immokalee Workers* (CIW). The event was co-sponsor with University UU society and YA-YA.

Our Share the Plate partner for this month was *Adriana's Attic*. We sent them \$930 received during the offering. You can see all our Share the Plate plans on [our website](#).

1U hosted and staffed a precinct for the November 3 local election.

Communications

Website enhancements continue. We continue to welcome you respectful feedback at webmaster@orlandouu.org.

General Notes

A Deep Chair Conversation (a meeting with a single topic to ponder) was held to discuss growth from a Program perspective.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy

Rev. Kathy Schmitz, Chief of Staff