

First Unitarian Church of Orlando  
**Monthly Program Report to the Board**  
Rev. Kathy Schmitz  
February 2016 (Covering January 2016)

*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.*

## **General**

We are delighted to welcome Gaby Cabrera as a half-time *Office and Program Assistant*. Gaby will be working with Amy and Rev. Kathy and supporting programs and projects. She will typically be in the office three days a week (currently Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday) and will be present on Sunday morning staffing *IU Central*, a new sign up and information table at the east end of the Gore Hall. The position is currently funded for one year.

## **Worship & Music**

This month, one Sunday featured guest speaker, Rudi Cleare, who is the Executive Director of the “Negro Spiritual” Scholarship Fund. Special musical offerings to accompany Mr. Cleare’s words about the importance of the spiritual tradition to our culture were provided by Welkin, the Chalice Choir, Nicole Omat, and Aubrey Connelly-Candelario.

Our Ministerial Intern, Rachel Christensen led worship on two Sunday. Worship Associate, Christine Haskins, led worship one week, and Rev. Kathy led worship one Sunday.

In addition to the special Sunday, music this month was provided by the Chalice Choir, Welkin, Jenny Lockington, and Jamie Sterrett.

We are delighted to welcome a new accompanist. Brittany Jean-Pierre will rehearse and perform with the Chalice Choir as well as with other performers as needed.

## **Religious Education (Children & Adults)**

Children’s Religious Education enjoyed a *One Room School House* and four weeks of class. Plans are underway for Term 3, which will have a theme of *The Sun*.

Sunday morning Adult Religious Education continued its regular rotation. The fourth Sunday potpourri featured a guest from *Citizen’s Climate Lobby*.

## **Community, Care, & Connection**

A *Dinner with Friends* evening took place this month adding to the on-going array of fellowship and community building activities.

## **Outreach & Social Justice**

The three small groups in *Beloved Conversation: Meditations on Race & Ethnicity* continued to meet. This offering of the program will wrap up in March. Plans are underway to offer on-going learning. We expect to offer the program again in some version in the Fall.

Our Share the Plate partner for this month was *Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida*. \$1,300.25 was received during the offering. The Alliance is matching the first \$1000, bringing us to a total contribution of \$2,300.25. You can see all our Share the Plate plans on [our website](#).

## **Communications**

Website enhancements continue. We continue to welcome you respectful feedback at [webmaster@orlandouu.org](mailto:webmaster@orlandouu.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

**Rev. Kathy**

Rev. Kathy Schmitz, Chief of Staff