

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

Preliminary programming planning for next year (September 2016 – May 2017) has begun.

Worship & Music

This month, Director of Religious Education, Regina Knabe, Intern Minister, Rachel Christensen, and Rev. Kathy collaborated on an intergenerational Valentine's Day service. Rachel and Rev. Kathy also collaborated on a service that highlighted a recently discovered 1956 sermon on race preached at 1U. Rev. Kathy led worship on the other two Sundays.

Music was provided by the Chalice Choir on two Sundays. Welkin and the Folk Ensemble performed one Sunday each.

We were saddened this month by the deaths of two people with close ties to the congregation. Memorial services were held in our sanctuary for Jen Doran, a former member with many friends in the congregation, and Geoffrey Wasden, the 19 year old grandson of 1U members Ellen Hone and Sharon Durrant.

Religious Education (Children & Adults)

Children's Religious Education put on a sapling sale following the intergenerational service. This celebrated the end of our tree theme for the last term. They enjoyed a *One Room School House* with a visit from the *Coalition of Immokalee Workers* (CIW). They kicked off Term 3, which will have a theme of *The Sun*.

An eight-week Upper Elementary OWL (Our Whole Lives) series kicked off.

Sunday morning Adult Religious Education continued its regular rotation. The fourth Sunday potpourri featured the video *In One Voice* followed by discussion. The second half will be shown and discussed on the fourth Sunday of March.

Enrollment opened for the next session of Welcome Home Wednesday, which will run six weeks from March 30 to May 4. Changes for this session included simplifying the meals by suggesting that people can brown bag it or order from a single provider, Tijuana Flats. Worship services will also be simplified to provide a more reflective service. Four six-week "tracks" are offered with options in Spirituality, Inquiry & Study, Movement & Play, and Creative Arts.

Community, Care, & Connection

New Covenant Groups were formed. We have decided to make a change in the timing. We have been running them from March through February. However, attendance was spotty in the summer and people were having trouble make a commitment of that length, especially as it span two Program Years. The new plan will be to run groups October through May. In the meantime, we will run three-month groups (March-May) and offer a single drop in group over the summer.

A Potluck was held with members who have joined in the last three years with the intention of learning about how their membership experience to date has been.

Outreach & Social Justice

The three small groups in *Beloved Conversation: Meditations on Race & Ethnicity* continued to meet. One group finished and two groups will have their final session in March. The three groups will reconvene for a celebration in March where planning for on-going learning and action will continue. We expect to offer the program again in some version in the Fall, most likely starting up after the presidential election.

Our Share the Plate partners for this month were the *Coalition of Immokalee Workers* and *Interfaith Action Network*. \$ \$1,031.00 was received during the offering and will be split between the two organizations. You can see all our Share the Plate plans on [our website](#).

We hosted a speakers from the *Landless Workers of Brazil* in support of several local justice groups.

Communications

We continue to welcome your respectful feedback on our website at webmaster@orlandouu.org. Please let us know of any corrections or updates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kathy

Rev. Kathy Schmitz, Chief of Staff