

Council Report for October 2021

Rev. Kim Nagy, Minister of Faith Formation

Christian Education

- ★ Christian Education Committee met via Zoom October 20 at 6 p.m.
- ★ Pew boxes continue to be offered for children who come to worship in lieu of Sunday school classes
- ★ A survey was sent to families regarding their comfortability around coming to worship, participating in a Christmas pageant, what they'd like for their children's faith formation at this time, and if they'd participate in an outdoor fellowship activity. Responses varied widely, but all survey responses indicated they would participate in an outdoor fellowship activity, if offered so...
- ★ We hosted a tailgate + vespers for Sunday school families on Friday, October 22
- ★ Applications are currently being accepted for the Hungerford Scholarship
- ★ We are currently thinking about what to offer families during this year's Advent season, including a potential outdoor live nativity in lieu of a Christmas pageant

J-Walkers (Middle School)

- ★ A couple of our J-Walkers and United Youth Force members helped to lead Access Sunday worship on October 10. A few stayed afterward for pizza on the back picnic tables.
- ★ J-Walkers went to Dussel Farms on October 24 for a fellowship activity.
- ★ The group is planning to engage the church in packing school kits, hygiene kits, or disaster relief buckets from Church World Service in the coming months.

Confirmation

- ★ We held our first gathering of the year on October 3 at the Tannery Park labyrinth. The theme was: Faith Journeys.
- ★ On October 17 we met after worship in the J-Walkers room. The theme was: Who Am I?
- ★ Our confirmation classes consist of prayer (teaching a variety of ways!), Bible study, talking about worship from that day, and a faith lesson.

United Youth Force

- ★ Now that activities are back in full swing, UYF is "competing" once again with extra-curricular activities that occur around the same time as UYF, meaning our numbers have been fairly low.
- ★ October 3 three UYF youth participated in carving and painting social justice pumpkins.
- ★ On October 10 we had no youth interested in participating in apple picking. There was a high school choir concert that afternoon.

- ★ We had one youth help at the community meal on October 17; a band concert kept the majority of our youth from participating.
- ★ October 24 we had a small group show up to pick up trash around Kent.
- ★ To be completely honest, I'm concerned about our current lack of youth participation, parent participation, and officer involvement. The pandemic has affected our youth group greatly, and I'm afraid it will take a few years to regain the momentum we had before March 2020.

Adult Education

- ★ The Wednesday evening Zoom book study on *Inspired* has been one of the highlights of my week! We have had a wonderful group of about 15 people who have been actively participating in engaging conversations around the Bible. This book study runs right up to Thanksgiving.
- ★ The second discussion about *Our Time is Now*, hosted by the Social Justice Committee and the anti-racism book club will be Monday, October 25 on Zoom. LaTasha Dukes, local activist, has been leading this conversation with us.
- ★ I am working on the beginning stages of our 2021 Advent devotional, which we hope to write ecumenically with the First Christian Church in Kent.

All Church/Worship

- ★ Led Snapchat October 3, 24, and 31
- ★ Organized worship for Access Sunday and preached
- ★ Coordinated a volunteer for Snapchat on October 17 (laity Sunday)
- ★ Led Space for Grace on Zoom October 19 in Pastor Amy's absence
- ★ Participated in a meeting of Sophia Hayden's Discernment Team October 14
- ★ Offered pastoral support to a young adult who came into the office looking for a "safe space to ask questions" October 19

Wider Church

- ★ Planning meeting for the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators' annual meeting October 5
- ★ Board meeting of the Association of United Church Educators October 12
- ★ Joined a call with Jill Frey, Outdoor Ministries Executive Minister re: planning a conference-wide Confirmation camp at Tempel Hills fall 2022 October 14
- ★ Heartland Conference Faith Formation Network meeting October 18
- ★ Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators' annual meeting October 26

Ecumenical/Interfaith

- ★ United Christian Ministries Board October 18