

Council Report for November 2021

Rev. Kim Nagy, Minister of Faith Formation

Christian Education

- ★ Christian Education Committee met via Zoom November 16 at 6 p.m.
- ★ Pew boxes continue to be offered for children who come to worship in lieu of Sunday school classes
- ★ Applications are currently being reviewed for the 2021 Hungerford Scholarship. We should be wrapping that up in the coming week so we can ask Ralph Kletzien to send a check on behalf of the Endowment Fund Committee to our award recipients.
- ★ I packed more than a dozen Advent boxes to be delivered to our church families this holiday season. Inside included an Advent calendar and family devotional from SALT Project, a craft, a Christmas tree ornament, information about intergenerational Advent activities at Kent UCC, some hot cocoa and candy canes. Thank you to Becky Dunlap and Sarah Ketchum for helping to deliver the boxes!
- ★ Julie Wallace, on behalf of the Fellowship Committee, asked if Christian Education would offer a children's activity during the December 3 tree lighting and suggested pinecone bird feeders. As this is written, I am looking forward to this activity, which will also include a reading of *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting, a fitting book for the activity! Jonathan Moody has volunteered to help December 3 - thanks, Jonathan!
- ★ Heather Lohman asked for advice from the COVID-19 team regarding moving forward with offering Sunday school for children after the new year. Many of our families are taking advantage of getting the vaccine for their 5-12 year old children, which is great news! We will continue to monitor the new variant of COVID-19, talk to our families about their needs, rely on wise counsel from the COVID-19 team, and do what we can to continue to offer faith formation that will also keep our children safe.

J-Walkers (Middle School)

- ★ J-Walkers gathered on November 7 to participate in a thankfulness Scripture scavenger hunt, wrote down the things they were thankful for, and created a video reading their lists with their favorite thankfulness Scripture verses.
- ★ In my absence on November 21 the J-Walkers were invited to help with the third Sunday community meal.

Confirmation

- ★ On November 14 our Confirmation mentors joined us for class! We talked about who God is (just a simple and light conversation with our mentors!!) by looking up Scripture passages, watching a video about the feminine image of God, and looking at pictures of what we think God "looks" like.
- ★ Our November 28 gathering revolved around conversation about Advent and Jesus.

United Youth Force

- ★ I held a parent informational meeting on October 31 regarding our 2022 mission trip and was impressed with the amount of interest (about 12-15 youth). There are also several UYF parents interested in going on the trip, which is being planned for June 12-18 with Borderlinks in Tucson, Arizona.
- ★ We were excited to have Lorelea Allen come and talk to us about mental health on November 7.
- ★ November 14 we collected winter gear for our community meal guests.
- ★ Several youth helped pack and serve meals at the November 21 community meal
- ★ I went to see Kathryn Mudrak perform in Ohio Ballet Theater's, "The Nutcracker."
- ★ Grace Polcha and Tracey Lohman met me in the UYF room to talk about the potential of offering a space for community teenagers to come and do their homework as a way to improve their overall stress and mental health. We brainstormed materials that we might need and their costs in order to apply for a Make a Difference Grant from the Heartland Conference. On December 2 we found out the Conference was awarding us \$825 to begin to make this project a reality!
- ★ I also helped Grace and Tracey think through what they planned to say during the November 14 Stewardship Dedication worship service.

Adult Education

- ★ We ended the *Inspired* book study mid-November. This was a fantastic class.
- ★ I organized, edited, and assembled the 2021 Advent devotional, which we wrote ecumenically with the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kent.
- ★ On Wednesday nights in Advent, participants are gathering on Zoom to dive deeper into our Advent theme "The Inn - Housing the Holy." We are gathering with a couple of members from Trinity UCC Akron and one community member from Copley who saw our class advertised on Facebook and signed up.

All Church/Worship

- ★ Led Snapchat November 7, 14, and 28. Thank you, Emily Roeger, for leading it on November 21!

Wider Church

- ★ I was elected as the vice-chair of the national Association of United Church Educators in November and plan to step back from my involvement in other wider church faith formation boards to focus solely on this endeavor. I will serve as vice-chair for two years before moving into the position of chair.
- ★ The Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators planning committee met November 8 to debrief our October event.

- ★ The Faith Formation Working Group of the Heartland Conference gathered November 15 to continue plans for our February faith formation event.
- ★ I met with Jill Frey, Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries at the conference level and another pastor to plan a Confirmation camp weekend for the conference in October 2022.

Ecumenical/Interfaith

- ★ United Christian Ministries Board November 15

Vacation Time

- ★ I took several days of vacation (November 21-24) so Amanda, Dietrich, and I could visit our Chicago family for Thanksgiving. Thank you for this time.
- ★ I plan to take a few days after Christmas (December 27-30) to spend time with my family for the holiday.