

## 2023-2024 Religious Growth and Learning Annual Report

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We have had a beautiful year focused on relationships and connection. This year our classes were yet again adapted to different needs. We combined K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, and our 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade groups. Our amazing volunteers used the Soul Matters Curriculum which correlated with Worship themes to guide our program. Abby Lemburg McDowell continues to lead our Youth In Action program for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders. We had Shelly Fowler and Judy Hart join the RGL Committee.

We began the year with another backpack blessing for children who were headed off to school which emphasized carrying UU values with them wherever they go. After offering an 'OWL Interest form' we learned that we did not have enough people express interest in OWL for winter, so we will hold off and re-assess in fall of 2024 once children move up a grade. (OWL stands for: Our Whole Lives – Sexuality Education Class). We had a successful UU Pen Pal program, Soup Supper, Tile Painting for a future mosaic, as well as our Easter Egg Hunt which raised money for three local nonprofits. We also introduced JETPIG which is a stuffed pig who tags along for activities which embody the words from the proposed Article II language.

Professionally, I was accepted into the Religious Education Credentialing Program and look forward to deepening my understanding of Unitarian Universalism through the lens of Religious Education. I have continued work with the Lifespan Faith Engagement office on their new anti-racist anti-oppression curriculum called 'Mosaic'. I have also continued work making suggestions and reviewing for the Tapestry of Faith relaunch and renewal. I am excited to announce that I have accepted a position as the MidAmerica Regional Administrator which I will be doing alongside my work as Director of Education at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. I have also attended a variety of workshops such as the Deeper Joy collaboration from the Lifespan Faith Engagement Office, and attended a regional UU Conference in Denver, General Assembly, and the conference for Liberal Religious Educators (LREDA).

We are looking forward to the 1999 Time Capsule opening on Memorial Day weekend. This summer we are adapting programming due to budget cuts. The RGL Committee is taking on either teaching or recruiting a leader for one Sunday in summer as well as creating a 'Sunday School in a Bag' activity for our paid childcare providers who typically just work in our preschool room. I am excited to continue our brainstorming for plans in the fall with hopes for another shift in programming with new excitement and creativity.