**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS**

This year has been different for sure! I never imagined that I would ever be the Director of Programs from home. It was heartbreaking for me not to be able to see my church families and friends. When it became clear that we would not be together for some time I made my focus connection. How can we keep connected with children, youth, families and all members and friends of the church?

GROWTH AND LEARNING

For our younger children I offered video lessons and Zoom calls. I reworked the curriculum for on line learning and made the best of it. Definitely not the same as hearing their ideas and perspectives in person but it worked.

Had we been in person this year the Junior High Youth would have been offered the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program. However, the decision was made that we should not have the program on line so we formed a Junior High Youth Group. Thanks to Teresa Kenders and Miriam Cleveland the group met twice a month on Zoom and had a variety of discussions and activities. One such activity was to paint canvass of hope for WINGS. Considering that these young people were also attending school on line we had pretty good attendance. We were lucky enough to have some in person gatherings in the Spring.

Thanks to Joe Saintcross and some senior leaders the Senior High Youth Group met twice a month on Zoom throughout the year. Zoom youth group lacks a certain energy but the youth stuck it out and enjoyed their in-person meetings in the Spring. We say thank you and farewell to Joe Saintcross, as he retires from youth work.

Special thanks to the Religious Education Committee. I am so grateful to Wendy Hainey, Liz Cross, KC Edgin, Susan Mooney for their support, good ideas and their willingness to search for creative ways to tackle problems and find solutions.

COMMUNITY

Feeling that it was imperative to stay connected during this time I helped worked out a new system for being welcoming during our virtual Sunday Services. The Membership Committee and I devised a plan which included a training for our Hospitality Team Leaders and an additional Visitor Information Form on our website.  We have successfully welcomed a number of visitors to our services over the course of this very different year.

Because we welcomed many new folks at our virtual services the Membership Committee decided to hold a Virtual New UU class early thing Spring. I rewrote the curriculum to make it Zoom friendly and with the help of some Membership Committee folks we held a wonderful class. Of course, it wasn’t the same as being together but it was still a success!

 I decided that with the pandemic hanging heavily over our heads that our Caring Circle Program needed a reboot. Liz Reyes and Mary Getty and I recruited some new Caring Captains and made sure that we had a current list of members and friends. We had a training meeting for Caring Captains and are confident that we can offer and provide a caring community for all our church family.

It has been wonderful working with the Membership Committee. They are a hard- working, thoughtful group of people who have so many fabulous ideas! They, too, were committed to staying connected during this past year.

STEWARDSHIP

Even though we couldn’t be together for things like our Annual Harvest Home celebration and Auction and our Pledge Drive dinner and kick-off they were still a must to keep our church running and to plan for our coming back together.

I was happy to produce, with the help of Nancy Kranz and John Cooperrider and the support of all of you, the fall Zoomraiser. Our fundraising goal was $9000 and our fall auction raised about $14,000. What a wonderful show of support among our church family! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Our pledge drive, “Not Just Bouncing Back but Leaping Forward” is a nod how we feel about the coming year. Not only will our church bounce back from this past pandemic year but will leap forward to offering more programs, more opportunities to make a difference in the world, and making even more connections to our church home and our church family.

 In addition to the work I do here at the church, I continue to be active in LREDA, The Liberal Religious Educators Association. I am the elected President of the Central Midwest Chapter. Our chapter hosts and participates in two continuing education programs each year, works with new DREs in the area and helps write policy for Continental LREDA.

I am so incredibly honored to serve my church community and am blessed to be a part of this UU family.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Fodor