

Community Circle Coordinator Annual Report

Church year 2022-2023

Membership

With continued excitement for being back in person the Membership Committee continued a commitment to its mission and goals.

MISSION: The Membership Committee of The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale serves to welcome, engage and support new and existing members in building vital and joyful community.

GOALS:

WELCOME

- Continue to offer New UU classes two times per year
- Continue to offer New Comers Breakfast as needed
- Continue to offer New Member Signing Ceremony
- Offer a New Member Celebration at the end of the church year
- Plan and execute a Member Recognition Service
- Start a Greeting Card Campaign

ENGAGE

- Continue the Tradition of a Back to Church Picnic
- Offer a Hospitality Team Refresh Event
- Offer an Activity Fair
- Coordinate a “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday”

Joyful

- Continue to coordinate Neighbor Nights
- Offer two First Friday Fun Nights (Trivia, Game Night, Cards, etc.)

New Comers Breakfasts

The Membership Committee hosted several Breakfasts for visitors and friends who are new to the church as a way to get to know each other and ask questions about our denomination, UCH and how to get involved.

New UU

The membership committee and Pam Fodor planned and presented a two session New UU class in the fall. Topics included a study of personal religious journeys, UU history, the History of UCH, what UU's believe and how to get involved.

Membership Recognition Service

Pam Fodor and the Membership Committee worked together to present a Membership Recognition Sunday Service to celebrate all our commitment to UCH. In the service we celebrated all our members and welcomed new members in a signing ceremony.

Activity Fair

In September Pam Fodor organized an Activity Fair so that members and friends could see what we had to offer and sign up to be a part of the action. But you don't have to wait for an Activity Fair. Everyone is always invited to try something new! Contact Pam Fodor if you need assistance in getting involved.

Fun Gatherings

Pam Fodor and the Membership Committee organized two fun activities to bring church members and friends together. In December we held the first Annual Deck-the-Halls Party to help decorate the church for the holiday season. In February Pam Fodor and friends hosted the third annual Hot Cocoa Communion.

Hospitality Teams

A few years back the Membership Committee organized our Hospitality Team Program. Each member of our church is a participant on a team that provides hospitality duties on Sunday mornings such as making coffee and being greeters or ushers. It is a wonderful plan that helps everyone be involved in providing a welcoming spirit. This Fall Pam Fodor helped welcome back our teams with

special team breakfasts. If you are not sure which Hospitality Team you are on or would like more information, please contact Pam Fodor.

Caring Circle

Our Caring Circle Program is designed to make sure that all our members feel cared for and are offered support when they need it. The Caring Circle Team is divided into eight geographical locations and there are two captains for each area. When we hear of a caring concern or a celebration the caring captains will reach out and see what is needed or what can be done in support or celebration.

Conversations with UCH Wise Elders

Every Tuesday afternoon UCH elders have been meeting together, year-round, sharing their stories, ideas, and advice, representing literally more than a combined 1000 years of life and living. After three years of virtual meetings participants got to celebrate in person at a luncheon. Special thank you to Tracey Olson for her continued leadership of this group.

Care Shawl Group

The Care Shawl Group was started about 2008 to make shawls to be given to church members. The group gives shawls for change of life situations. Usually, it is for health-related issues, but it could be for happy times, like a graduation, wedding, or birth of a child. To date these caring folks have given more than 320 shawls. The shawls are knit and crocheted out of machine washable yarn for easy care. The shawls are made by church members who meet four times a year. When we meet, we discuss who needs shawls and we have a simple ceremony to bless shawls made since we last gathered. When a shawl is given, it is accompanied by a card that tells about the Care Shawl Group and the ceremony we have to bless each shawl made. When a person gets a shawl, it is put around their shoulders with a hug and the person is told they are being thought about.

The group wants to make sure that nobody is forgotten. We listen to see who needs a shawl. Everyone is encouraged to let the group know who needs a shawl. We are always looking for new members of the group. Special thank you to Nancy Weill for her continued leadership of this group.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Fodor