Community Circle Coordinator Annual Reports

Church year 2020-2021

**Membership**

Because we had remote services the membership committee was unable to do the normal Sunday tasks such as greeting attendees, taking up the collection, and serving coffee and snacks during coffee hour. The committee is using the Chat feature on Zoom to greet members and guests. Thanks to Darren Howard and Steve Trout for initiating this.

We did have three visitors who joined some of our Social Justice committees and who attended our New UU class in the spring.

The Committee is planning a welcome in-person breakfast for any visitors who are interested in June. Although some of these visitors have been regular attendees for several months, they have never seen the church!

We continue to meet regularly to plan a church year full of activities to welcome new folks and to sustain the feeling of community for our existing members.

**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. Just when we thought we had the perfect system in place for welcoming folks and providing a well- organized Sunday morning experience we had to go virtual. That didn’t stop our hospitality teams! We worked out a new system for being welcoming on zoom 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. We are looking forward to being together again in the fall and our regular Hospitality Team Program. If you are not sure which Hospitality Team you are on or would like more information, please contact Pam Fodor.

submitted by 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. We decided that with the pandemic hanging heavily over our heads that our Caring Circle Program needed a reboot. We 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.

Submitted by Pam Fodor

**CAUUC**

CAUUC (Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council) is a UU non-profit organization comprised of 17 Chicago area member UU congregations.  CAUUC works to serve and support its members by collaborating to promote Unitarian Universalist principles.  Widely known as host of excellent annual workshops, CAUUC’s workshop goal is to offer sharing and thematic learning experiences and speakers to inspire us to live out our values.  With the COVID-19 pandemic in its early days, in May of 2020 CAUUC hosted its first all-virtual conference that focused on building lifelong UUs and the importance of creating communities that support people through their life transitions.   In the fall of 2020, CAUUC offered a workshop aimed squarely at the challenges of membership engagement during a pandemic.  This spring, CAUUC hosted its third successful Zoom conference focused on Reopening and Re-imagining Church that included a panel discussion featuring UCH’s own Shelby Daniel-Wayman, on lessons learned from the pandemic.  UCH is looking for a successor for Darren given that he will complete his term as CAUUC Treasurer in May 2022.

Submitted by Dr. Darren Howard

**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.  Join the conversation!

**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.  Between July 1, 2020 and May 23, 2021, the group has given out eleven shawls.  To date we have given 308 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 on the second Monday in October, January, March, and May.  When we meet we discuss who needs shawls and we have a simple ceremony to bless shawls made since we last gathered.  The shawls are kept in Room 6 of the RE building in a metal cabinet against the wall.  When a shawl is given, it is accompanied by a card designed by Ellie Searle 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.

One goal we have is to get a shawl into every home in the congregation.  There is only one shawl per person.  If someone has received a shawl and wants to have it re-blessed, that can be done at one of our gatherings.

We are always looking for new members of the group.

Submitted by Nancy Weill

**PADS**

Our congregation was able to participate in the food delivery program at the Red Roof Inn in Naperville in May. We picked up prepackaged meals and desserts from a Food Rescue program and brought water bottles, Cuties, and cookies to complete the dinners.

Once we arrived at the Red Roof Inn, we bagged the dinners and distributed them to the rooms whose occupants were designated as PADS clients. The four of us who participated had fun doing this and got some exercise going up and down the stairs. We'll have another opportunity to do this in June.