

September 2020 Executive Report
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw

Our mission at UCDSM is to:
Grow ethically and spiritually (G)
Serve justly (S)
Love radically (L)

Lifespan Learning (Devon McClurken)

- Fall Children's and Youth Programming has kicked off. (GSL)
 - Wednesday night programming includes new classes and will not include OWL as that cannot be done in an online setting.
 - We had our Wednesday Programming Fall Kick Off and goodie bags were handed out to people that registered and came by to pick them up. The official start of programming is Oct 7th but Taking Flight, the OWL alternative will start the 21st as we are working with 4 other congregations to put that class together.
 - ChUUrch craft which combines Building Bridges and Minecraft has begun.
 - There will be an online Sex Ed group called Taking Flight
 - COA will not be starting at this time as many of the parents and youth expressed a wish to wait until we can meet in person.
 - YRUU is doing social nights once a month. This was decided by the newly formed Youth Council.
 - Children's Chapel has started, and new families have joined. We have an object lesson and story done by Rev. Amy and songs performed by Nany Bratt. There is a mediation and activity and then a take home.
 - Sing and Play, the UU Way, our children's choir and theatrics group began on Wednesdays, and youth that attend that will learn the songs for Children's Chapel and help shape how chapel will be run.
- CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights and starting a new 4 week course called Paganism 101 in October. (GSL)
- Humanism and Sage have been meeting online (GSL)
- Five Soul Matters groups are meeting, and one Wellspring Group is meeting. (GSL)
- Chalice Groups, which are small social groups, are forming to give people a chance to connect during this time of COVID. (GSL)
- A group to discuss Widening the Circle of Concern is set to meet in October. (GSL)
- A class on End of Life preferences and Truth Post-Truth book study is starting in October. (GSL)
- A group to discuss the report on Institutional Change, led by Rev. Amy, is set to meet for 12 weeks beginning in October. (GSL)
- Rev. Amy will be doing a Koran study group on Friday nights beginning October 16th. (GSL)

Membership and Community (Lyra Halsten)

- Caring Ministry: A meal was provided for two families. Three cards were sent to members. (LS)
- Pastoral Care: 16 contacts with members.
 - Members of the Pastoral Care team continued to hold sessions of the informal grief circle group led by Sally Boeckholt by Zoom. (GLS)
- Membership
 - A new member welcome ceremony was held in September with 16 new members formally welcomed (GLS)
 - A new directory of members was created (S)
 - Planning began for “Let’s Do LUUnch!”, a 12-1pm social lunch meeting M-F on Zoom (LS)
 - Met with Lens of the Future Group weekly to plan and launch Chalice Groups (GLS)
 - Created and then held small in person meeting groups (GLS)

Childcare (Julie Morocho)

- On hiatus due to Corona virus

Facility/Grounds (Diane Ford/Doug Aupperle)

- More tree damage was cleaned up
- A Fall Clean Up Day on the grounds will be scheduled in October
- Chelsea Hayes has received a REACH Grant to revitalize the children’s playground but the work is not yet in progress due to the tree damage and COVID 19
- We continue to require volunteers for weeding and grounds clean-up

Social Justice/Outreach

(Morgan Dredge- Asylum Seekers)

- Briana continues to do well. She had a few medical things come up that are being taken care of and she was also able to see the dentist. (GLS)
- She has gone on several bike rides with Elaine, connected with a woman originally from Honduras that lives her and I have taken her out shopping a few times. (GLS)
- She is eager to work, but we are still waiting for her work permit. (GLS)
- We are still working on getting her an ID, but have ran into some obstacles getting her original birth certificate since the buildings are closed in Honduras. (GLS)

(Katie Allen- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT))

- Social Justice Ministry Leadership Team (SJMLT) met in September (GS)
- The group will assist with the small discussion groups for the Widening the Circle Book study Group (Commission on Institutional Change Final Report) beginning in October (GS)
- SJMLT Wellspring Faithful Action Class offered to 6 participants with 2 facilitators (GLS)
- ARC- no activity

(Judy Haver- Faith in Action)

- FIA held kick off events (Trivia Nights for each Community Partner organization via Zoom) in September
- There was a "spotlight" at Sunday services each Sunday in September by each FIA team member.

(Barb Klubal- Write Here, Write Now)

- In September, our members wrote to our Senators asking for immigrants' access to aid in the next COVID relief bill and strengthening oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. Barb Klubal is awaiting word from the UUSJ on the number of letters written.
- The UUSJ recently introduced new, online methods of letter submission. These easier methods of letter writing may increase participation.
- Beginning in November, please contact Donna Wallace or Bill Brauch for information about Write Here, Write Now!

(Bruce Martin- FEDS)

- FEDS provided dinner at the homeless shelter on Sept. 28--5 volunteers, approx. 200 meals provided.

(Ron Heideman- We Are Church Confessing and Pachamama Alliance)

- On hold due to Coronavirus

(Gianfranco Berardi, Doug Aupperle- Transgender Action Group)

- TAG did not meet in September

(Birch Spick- Welcoming Congregation)

- Welcoming Congregation did not meet in September

(Elaine Imlau- Family Promise and FFFF/PPP 2020)

- FFFF had no activity this month
- Family Promise had no activity in September
- Families will be housed at Westminster through 2020

Barb Royal, Deidra Fudge, Liz Bredeesen- Communication Group

- The website vendor is Big Imprint, here in Des Moines and the group has met with them twice in September to see the first website design (SG)
- The committee continue meeting weekly with Rev. Amy and monthly with Kerrie Lee (S)

Updates

Service Attendance (# of households/screens, NOT number of people):

| | |
|--|----|
| 9/6/2020 They Would Not Be Moved (Amy) | 81 |
| 9/13/2020 Working in the Water (Water Gatering/Homecoming Sunday (Amy) | 93 |
| 9/20/2020 Which Justice? (Dr. Susan Andrews) | 84 |
| 9/27/2020 Transcending Our Worst (Yom Kippor) (Amy) | 92 |

Service 2.0 (30 minute micro-services) began on Rev. Amy’s Facebook page at 2pm each Sunday beginning 9/13/2020. Videos have gotten between 135 and 280 views each.

UCDSM has released two approximately 30 second commercials on Facebook. They can be viewed in the UCDSM private group, or here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmyPetrieShaw/videos/10224409507164855>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/AmyPetrieShaw/videos/10224452615842545>

Membership Numbers Summary:

- Number of new members in September- 0
- Deceased - 0
- Moved – 0
- Withdrew membership – 1

| Month | # of New Members | Deceased | Moved | Withdrew Membership |
|-----------|------------------|----------|-------|---------------------|
| September | | | | 1 |
| August | | | | |
| July | 5 | | | 2 |
| June | | | | |
| May | 4 | | | |
| April | 4 | | | |

Operations. Important information about current operations—

- Wright Outdoors has finished their work in cleaning up the damaged trees in the vicinity of the building. The Grounds Council will be assessing the damage out in the woods to establish if they can accomplish the work with volunteers or if more professional help will be needed.
- Reliable Roofing has been contracted to do the repairs to the roof. Fortunately, the overall damage was relatively minor and is expected to cost about \$3,500. Reliable had the better bid than For Sure Roofing.
- We've just about sorted out the options for replacing the two furnaces that have reached the end of their lifecycle. That work should be done by the end of October or early November.