

Social Justice Reports

EarthKeepers/Climate/Environment Project

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Fred Judkins

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

- Presented Sunday service on how climate change is affecting society, for Earth Day.
- Maintained Composting and Recycling efforts to maintain UUG in an environmentally friendly way.
- Offered an Earth Day program for the Interfaith Climate Group and the public, on climate change, with Ignite Applied Theatre.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL

Publicity for our Earth Day program went to a wider community.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Ignite Applied Theatre

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Fred Judkins

Family Promise

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Pat Caren

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know:

1. We have served as a host church the weeks of July 23-30, October 22-29, January 7-14, and May 6-13.
2. Due to the lack of volunteers for the January hosting, we took a vote on whether to continue to be a host church at the congregational meeting on January 21. The result of the vote was 14 to 12 in favor of continuing, not a very optimistic outcome.
3. We held a town hall meeting at which Jayne Moraski of Gainesville Family Promise spoke about the good the program does in the community and Helen McCune of Westminster Presbyterian shared her church's practices which allow them to host with fewer volunteers. We were assigned a support congregation, Temple Shir Shalom, and our congregation rallied to support the program to the extent that we had more volunteers for the May hosting than we needed!

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

Our program involves all generations of the congregation, from the children to the elders. The Youth Group helps set up for hosting, families cook meals and serve as dinner and overnight hosts, and anyone can do laundry at the end of the week. This is an opportunity for our community to actively participate in Social Justice and get to know a segment of the population they might not otherwise meet. Additionally, we cooperate with other faith groups and partnering with Temple Shir Shalom is an added plus.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

The Family Promise Team: Carol Mathews, Mike Lattimer, Becky Moulton, Alisha Dusty, Fred Judkins, Tom Bullock, Marilyn Roberts, Rev. Maureen (of course), and many more.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Pat Caren

Food4kids

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Carol Rivers

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. UUFG congregation has supported up to 45 students every weekend with food they would otherwise not have.
2. Provided each child a few small Christmas gifts.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUFG'S UUFG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

We are proud that through our work with needy children some of the hunger in our community has been addressed. UUFG is listed as an active sponsor on the Food4kids website, showing our commitment to social justice for children. We are known by Westwood Middle School guidance counselors.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

The Congregation of UUFG.

Tom McCallum of McCallum Cabinets who donated his time, talent and the materials to build some beautiful cabinets at Westwood School for the use of Food4kids. Although not a UUFG member Tom is a wonderful contributor to our community.

Dawn Ayers who works tirelessly and does all the heavy lifting.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Carol Rivers

Habitat for Humanity Action Team

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Mallory Szymanski

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. Provided volunteer builders for one Habitat build
2. Provided lunch for volunteers at another Habitat build
3. Attended many of the monthly interfaith Habitat meetings at which volunteer leaders from many different congregation plan and learn about future plans.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

This work has our members right out in the community, interacting with Habitat staff and volunteers from many different congregations.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Susan Chandler, who headed up preparation of lunches

Alisha Dusty, who helped publicize to the Young Adult group

Fred Judkins, who picked up donated furniture and other items, and transported them to the Habitat Restore

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Not decided yet.

Justice, Equity and Compassion Project

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADERS: Mallory Szymanski & Zoharah Simmons

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. Presented a Sunday service with speaker Kali Blount
2. Hosted a talk by Angela King, founder of Life After Hate, which is an organization to aid former white supremacists to re-enter society.
3. We did a Common Read, asking the Congregation to read the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. We offered three moderated discussion sessions of the book.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL

These programs brought more understanding to attendees so that we can act in informed ways and more effectively with those who may seem different from us.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Alexa Horn who arranged the Angela King program.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Not yet decided.

Pineridge Action Team

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Tom Bullock, Kirsten Flamand, Alice Primack

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. UUFG volunteers have volunteered in the Community Center at Pineridge two afternoons each week to provide enrichment activities for the elementary-age children in their after-school program.
2. Activities we provide include use of computers in order to help close the digital divide for children in poverty who do not usually have access to computers outside school. Most of these computers were purchased a few years ago with funds donated by Gene Mills, and they are maintained by Tom Bullock.
3. We participate in monthly planning meetings and special events regarding the Pineridge community.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUFG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

UUFG is an active part of the groups supporting this Community Center, along with Black on Black Crime Task Force, GPD, Alachua County School Board, etc. Alice regularly attends monthly neighborhood planning meetings, and UUFG volunteers hosted a volunteer training meeting at UUFG.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Anita Colin, who is a friend of UUFG frequently helps provide science programs for the children. Buchholz High School students who volunteer with Kirsten Flamand.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Tom Bullock

Kirsten Flamand

Social Justice Circle

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Mallory Szymanski

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. We made monthly goals to coincide with the monthly worship themes, for our monthly support meetings, events, and letter writing and educational activities. This is an endeavor to cohere around existing programming to drum up enthusiasm and participation.
2. Instituted letter-writing on the third Sunday of most months, headed up by Peter Marino with many others helping. We tabled after service so that congregation could easily participate in this legislative action.
3. Provided a Social Justice Fair in the early fall, at which each Action Team had a table display about their activities. We offered food and cake, and included a raffle to encourage people to visit each table.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUFG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

We invite anyone to attend this group for support for their social justice work, so it includes some non-UUFG-members, which enables us to support the wider community. Monthly meetings encourage our members in all their social justice work in the community.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Peter Marino for taking notes.

Susan Chandler for taking on various tasks as needed.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

Peter Marino

Social Justice Council

2017-18 CHAIR/LEADER: Alice Primack

PLEASE BRIEFLY LIST up to three things you'd like the congregation to know about what your group has done or accomplished this year (one or two sentences each):

1. We held our annual Congregational Meeting for Social Justice, at which congregation members voted on UUA Congregational Study/Action Issues and priorities for social justice work of UUFG. After nominations were opened at this meeting, we received nominations of organizations for Share the Plate, and provided information about each organization for Gazette articles.
2. The congregation is a member of UU Justice Florida (statewide social justice organization), and voted this year to affiliate with two other organizations: Citizens Climate Lobby, and Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County. We co-sponsored and participated in several community events, including Susan B. Anthony Lunch, United Nations Day, MLK March, Pride Parade and Festival, Interfaith Climate Group, Alachua County Labor Coalition, Vets for Peace (Winter Solstice Concert, and Peace Poetry Awards), collaborating with RE to involve families in some of these activities.
3. Conducted annual "Cookie Caper" fundraiser.

HOW HAS YOUR WORK ADDRESSED UUFG'S YEAR 3 DEVELOPMENTAL GOAL?

The Share the Plate program and the many events we co-sponsor and participate in with tabling or marching put UUFG social justice work in the spotlight frequently.

PEOPLE YOU'D LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR WORK OR SUPPORT:

Nancy Parkinson for organizing Cookie Caper.

Peter Marino for organizing participation in Pride Parade and Festival. Mary Bahr for organizing events with Vets for Peace.

Aaron Broadwell for representing UUFG with Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County. Mallory Szymanski for leadership while Alice was out of town for several months.

WHO WILL CHAIR/LEAD THIS GROUP FOR THE FELLOWSHIP YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018?

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Alice Primack