

Religious Education Annual Report 2022-2023

Submitted by James Chase, Director of Religious Education

RE has undergone many changes over the last year. Since August, James has added a first hour to our Sundays, where children and adults both meet for RE. They started the year off with CARTUUNS curriculum, and in the Spring they switched over to an old favorite curriculum, Spirit Play. At this time they have 4 regular Sunday School Volunteers who plan and teach these classes.

In the Fall and Winter, James helped to plan and prepare our Trunk or Treat event, which was well attended, and had a good amount of youth involvement. The youth planned and hosted a lock-in, which did a lot to help build confidence and community. They also held a photography fundraiser for our RE budget.

James was holding monthly Messy Play dates until the end of 2022, when attendance started to drop off. To help with that, they switched these from Saturday to Sunday, and now the first Sunday of the month has an offering of sensory friendly and inclusive play. This has included our wonderful Holi celebration, and our very fun painting prior to Easter. As we transition into our warmer summer months, these will continue on as our “Water Sundays” where we will encourage kids and adults to come enjoy the sprinklers in the play yard.

The kids had a fun Easter egg hunt, which our young adults helped facilitate.

The youth have been so busy this year, they are currently planning a Florida Youth Con which will be hosted on our campus in June, and we are sending a few of our youth to GA a few weeks after. The Youth have worked very hard on different modes of communication, and have recently found success with a platform called Discord. They have also made a lot of progress in getting their Youth room updated with new paint and furniture, thanks to a foundation Grant obtained in the Fall cycle.

James and 4 additional adults are signed up for OWL Training at the end of May, and has been in communication with UCG - we will hopefully send a few folks to their local OWL training as well. James has completed several trainings as well, including the Spirit Play certification and an Interim Ministry class. The current hope is to be able to host and facilitate OWL classes for our Children and Youth in the Fall.

Summer will be a slower time, but we plan to at least continue to offer play based programming for our children.

Adult Religious Education

Submitted by Rev. Christe Lunsford

Coming out of COVID lockdown has been slow; however, UUFG has been able to continue and grow Adult RE offerings. These offerings have been both during weeknights via Zoom and by adding offerings to First Hour.

- Widening the Circle of Concern discussion
- HUUGG discussion (Humanist)
- Parenting & Religion
- Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
- Identity Circle prep for IDI

There have also been community building learning opportunities via circle groups, Town Halls and committee trainings.

- Worship Training and ongoing tech team training
- Emergency Preparedness Training
- Article 2 small groups discussion and circle groups