

Faith Formation Annual Report 2019-2020

This report covers the lifespan faith formation program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua and Sadie Kahn-Greene's third year as the settled Director of Faith Formation. It covers the programs that were planned and the programs that evolved. As 2020 unfolded, we were asked to reimagine what would be the essential parts of church and faith formation to focus on during our time while we need to remain physically apart due to Covid 19.

Budget: The Faith Formation program operated with the following budget, exclusive of staffing expenses:
Children & Youth FF: \$4,550 Adult FF: \$1,000 Total FF Budget: \$5,550

Children & Youth Faith Formation Program Notes for 2019-2020

Faith Formation for Children and Youth from Sept to mid March included: 20 Sundays with Sunday morning faith formation workshops and classes, 1 mixed age game day, 6 all-ages worship services, 7 children's chapels, 11 youth group events, 12 OWL Sundays, and over 27 wonderbox moments for all ages and over 40 volunteers! All ages events included our annual carol sing & potluck, bowling night, skating, the contra dance, the Mine Falls UU hike and after church river walk, and the crop walk fundraiser.

Our shift to physically distant church from mid March through June included: 13 all ages online worship services, 13 online kids zoom rooms on Thursday afternoons, 10 online parent groups, 13 online wonderbox moments during online worship with the help of the Wonderbox Bot. 20 At-home church kits that went out to families in May with more planned for June, 5 after church kids zoom rooms. 13 youth group zoom check-ins. We also had 13 weeks of fun Friday zooms and two all ages trivia nights, and one dance party.

Workshop Choices Model

Before we shifted to online church, the faith formation children's program was in the middle of the first year with Workshop Choices. The Workshop Choices model is guided by our congregational values, mission and first end statement, "*Know our authentic Unitarian Universalist faith identity, teach it to our children, share it with others, and live it in the world.*" Understanding our Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles, and our four Congregational Core values (Wonder, Authentic Connection, Courageous Community and Love in Action) are some of the pieces this model uses to help develop our children's authentic faith identity. You can read a detailed overview of the Workshop Choices model on the [Faith Formation Annual Report from 2018-2019](#)

In this model, Workshop Leaders plan to offer the same workshop for three Sundays in a row, allowing for our children who can't come every week to attend their first choice when they attend. We knew that even though we have a few families that attend every Sunday, regular attendance for most families is commonly once or twice a month. We found that most often children would choose the same workshop each time they attended, and occasionally choose a different workshop. The Courageous Community workshops often had most children, with regular attendance by a few children who always choose the Wonder Workshop or Love in Action Workshop. Our Sundays at the beginning of the year showed that we didn't have enough to fill four workshops each Sunday, so we switched to offering three Values Workshops each month starting in November. You can see the schedule on Page 3.

Collaboration with UU Manchester church of K-1 OWL and Parenting Group. Two families from UU Nashua enrolled 1st graders in the K-1 Our Whole Lives program led by UU Manchester church on Saturday mornings in January-March. Sadie also co-led a discussion group for parents that took place during the session. This collaboration with Manchester UUs is hopefully the start of more shared programs to come!

Faith Formation Associate Monthly Meetings & Volunteers

Sadie met monthly with Faith Formation Associates and Sunday morning volunteers. Faith Formation Associates helped plan the workshop choices for each month. *Megan Holmes was the Courageous Community Faith Formation Associate, Lea Anne Atwell was the Love in Action Faith Formation Associate and Dick Widhu & Jenny Hitzeman were Wonder Faith Formation Associates.* These volunteers share their ideas and enthusiasm as we reflected on what was working and what could be better supported by trying something new. Faith Formation associates, who sometimes taught workshops themselves would join with new workshop leaders for the next set for workshops once a month. They would gather with Sadie on 2nd Thursdays at 7pm-9pm to review learning from the last month of workshops, train new workshop leaders, and finalize outlines for the upcoming monthly workshops. This model allowed for people who had never taught before or who had not taught in a long time to join in for one month at a time as a leader and work alongside a faith formation associate or experienced volunteer. It was wonderful to welcome *Harry Purkhiser, Alice Introcaso, Amanda Banner, Laurie Goodman, Sherri Woolsey, Margaret LaRaia and Tina Marshman* to help in this way! New connections were made across generations as new volunteers were able to bring their passions and talents into their workshops. And long term faith formation volunteers, *Jason O'Neil, Karen Murray, Billy Early, Jodie Holway, Kate O'Shea, Pat Ladew*, graciously adapted to this new model and helped with one month or more with this new model. We had 4 recent ROPES graduates all take on leadership as teen assistants in workshops throughout the year. *Mary Holland* and *Sam Murray* helped out in our courageous community workshops and especially helped make our Solstice Pageant come alive. *Nick Griffis* started assisting in the Wonder room and was a great inspiration to the young children with his drawing skills. *Riley Hudson* was happy to help in any area and was a great addition of support and care with our the Chalice Children, the Wonder room or the Family Corner. Our Chalice Children leaders *Cindy Hudson, Camille Tremblay, Kathleen Griffis, & Joyce Trudel*, also gathered at our Faith Formation Associate meetings to reflect on how their program was going, review the next set of picture books suggested by Sadie and confirm teaching schedule and the activities for the following month's workshops.

Hallway Rovers

We continued having rovers to both the parish house and the faith formation wing this year to provide a welcoming presence with an eye one safety in the hallways during Sunday morning faith formation classes. Rovers this year were: *Allison Jutras, Paul Cardone, Tiff Holmes, Livia O'Neil, Will Kahn-Greene, Amanda Banner, Marc Trudel, Robert Trudel & Joyce Trudel.*

All volunteers were welcome to come for training and check-in at Faith Formation Associate meetings as well as attending the Safe Congregation training led by church staff. The training was offered in September that was recorded and put online.

Youth Ministry Leaders

Youth Advisors *Marissa Volpe, Jay Gueneri & Ben Atherton-Zeman* met with Sadie most months prior to youth group gatherings for training, reflecting and planning for each month. Ministerial Intern, *Ben Atherton-Zeman* also met with Sadie weekly to review his role and program plans. Once church programs shifted to meet online, *Joanne Iovino* joined the advisor team and joined in the rotation of hosting weekly youth group check-ins on zoom for games and reconnection.

OWL Leaders *Andy Straussberg, Joanne Iovino and Michelle Morrison*, led Our Whole Lives, comprehensive sexuality education program for 7th-9th graders this year. They led with a new schedule that offered OWL twice a month and gathered with Sadie to reflect on the program as needed. This year we included speakers from SpeakOut Boston. UUA Guidelines required that no OWL content could be offered in an online format, so our program ended in March, with only one lesson left that included a Planned Parenthood guest speaker. Once we can gather in person again we plan to reschedule the speaker for our youth.

Faith Formation Programs for Children & Youth	Faith Formation Programs for Children & Youth by Month with Volunteers and Content						
	September Expectation	October Belonging	November Attention	December Awe	January Integrity	February Resilience	March Wisdom
Chalice Children Pre K & K	Cindy Hudson, Kathleen Griffis, Camille Tremblay, Riley Hudson				Cindy Hudson, Kathleen Griffis, Camille Tremblay, Joyce Trudel		
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Wonder Workshop 1st-8th grade	Wonder Art Dick Widhu & Jenny Hitzeman	Wonder Puzzle Posters Billy Earley, Jenny Hitzeman	UU Prayer Beads Dick Widhu, Billy Earley	Pageant Costumes/Props Dick Widhu, Jenny Hitzeman	Self-Portrait Mandalas Billy Earley, Jenny Hitzeman	Art from Mistakes Jenny Hitzeman, Nick Griffis, Pat Ladew, Sadie	Painting Wonder Lanterns Billy Earley & Nick Griffis
Love in Action Workshop 1st-8th grade	Dog/cat Toys for Humane Society Lea Anne Atwell, Margaret LaRaia	Planting Bulbs LeaAnne Atwell, Margaret LaRaia	Meals on Wheels Placemats AmandaBanner, Jason O'Neil	Community Dinner Decorations Alice Introcaso, Kate O'shea, LeaAnne Atwell	Church Care Packages Sherri Woolsey, LeaAnne Atwell	Weaving Plarn Sleeping Mats Tina Marshman LeAnne Atwell	Endangered Animal Puppets LeaAnneAtwell Tina Marshman
Courageous Community Workshop 1st-8th grade	Games & Magic Tricks Megan Holmes, Karen Murray, Jodie Holway	Community Building Games Megan Holmes, Mary Holland	Photography Harry Purkhiser, Jodie Holway, Mary Holland, Sam Murray	<i>combined with Authentic Connection</i>	<i>combined with Authentic Connection</i>	Caring for Our Church Skits Jason O'Neil, Mary Holland	Simple Machines Sadie Kahn-Greene, Mary Holland & Sam Murray
Authentic Connection Workshop 1st-8th grade	Caring Candles & Altar Cloth Weaving Billy Earley, Laurie Goodman	Exploring and Learning Spirit of Life Karen Murray, Laurie Goodman	<i>Combined with Courageous Community</i>	Pageant Lines & Songs Karen Murray, LeaAnne Atwell, Mary Holland, Sam Murray	YOGA/ Building forts with Integrity Pat Ladew, Megan Holmes, Mary Holland	<i>Combined with Courageous Community</i>	<i>Combined with Courageous Community</i>
Our Whole Lives 7th-9th grade	OWL Facilitators: Andy Straussberg, Michelle Morrison, Joanne Iovino - Gathered from 9:30-12:30 twice a month for double sessions.						
Youth Group 9th-12th grade	Advisors: Lindsey Sylvester, Marissa Volpe, Jay Gueneri, Ben Atherton-Zeman, Events: made clay for Chalice Children and church scavenger hunt. Youth Pride Halloween dance w/ Nashua Library.		Advisors: Marissa Volpe, Jay Gueneri, Ben Atherton-Zeman Monthly check-ins with dinner and monthly social events including Outings for ice cream and Trampoline Park, Starwars movie night, Nintendo Switch Party, The Greatest Showman movie night.				

Adult Faith Formation Pathways in 2019-2020

Here are the adult faith formation programs offered in 2019-2020 categorized by their Pathways which are part of the Adult Faith Formation Road Map. Some of these programs were able to continue to meet online after March, while some did not. That choice was left up to the leaders of each adult faith formation program.

Faith in Action

- **Building the World We Dream About [In person & Online]** was planned to be co-led by Jodie Holway, Jess Woods & Sadie Kahn-Greene on the 3rd Tuesdays in Nov, Dec (*canceled weather*), Jan and Feb. In March and April we shifted to meeting online and the May sessions were held on the same night as Knotty Conversation webinars (see below) so we decided to switch to those events which were very engaging workshops. Our leaders felt that the UUA's Knotty Conversations were more current and would like to continue with those types of workshops rather than completing the Building the World We Dream About curriculum next year.
- **"Knotty Conversations" UUA webinar workshops with Racial Justice Working Group. [In person & Online]** These online conversations were offered from Jan-May one evening a month for 90 minutes. They were intended for congregational leaders of any racial/ethnic identity who are navigating the challenges of dismantling white supremacy in and with their congregations. In Jan & Feb our UU Nashua participants attended and signed online together from the Youth Room. For April and May they were all online. These sessions were timely and engaging and we hope to participate in more online offerings like this next year.

Faith in Community

- **Covenant groups [In person & Online]** We have four groups of church members who gather monthly to share and listen to one another while exploring readings and questions related to the worship theme of the month. Rev. Allison and worship associates led one at the Huntington, Karen Thomas led one on 1st Wednesdays, and shifted to meeting twice a month after March. Bob Keating's group met on the 1st Sunday evenings at church members' homes and shifted to meeting online starting in April. Gail McMorro Donahue and Bob Coulter co-lead their group on 4th Sunday evenings. They shifted to meeting online in April as well. Director of Faith Formation, Sadie Kahn-Greene, met monthly with lay covenant leaders to review each upcoming session assembled by one of the covenant leaders based on the next month's soul matters theme. Karen Thomas took up the role of creating many of this year's sessions and continued to write them when we shifted to online gatherings. All covenant groups shifted, as well, to meeting on Zoom. We plan to form more online covenant groups for church members to join next year.
- **20s-30s Group [In person]** began this year with a focus on monthly social events to help young adults make connections with one another. Rev. Allison and Director of Faith Formation, Sadie, alternated leading the following events. Team Trivia in Oct, Dec. & Feb. Sanctuary Boston trip in Nov., Escape Room in January and Game Night in March. An online game night is scheduled for June 11th.
- **UU Hikers Group [In person]** held all ages hikes once or twice a month June-Dec. Fred Shirely stepped down from running the UU hikers website separately from UU Nashua. So moving forward UU hikes will be listed on the Faith Formation pages of uunashua.org. During the fall and winter hikes were well attended and listed here. *Ponemah on Sept 7th (8 hikers). Wildcat falls Sept. 15th (7 UU hikers). Andres Art institute on Oct. 5th (5 UU Hikers). Black Heritage Trail on Oct 12th (11 UU walkers). Mines Falls October 14h (21 walkers). Sunset hike on Oct 10th (17 Walkers). Nashua River walk after church on Dec. 1st (14 UU walkers). Due to injury our Dick was unable to host our January or February hikes as planned and the weather wasn't cooperating during those months anyway. We are glad Dick Widhu has recovered and hope he can host hikes again once we can safely host church-sponsored hikes. After we stopped being able to host in-person gatherings or outings we have not planned to host anymore UU hikes after March. Moving forward, UU Nashua hopes to offer them again before too long.*

Faith in Life

- **Death Cafe [Canceled]** was scheduled March 14th to be hosted by Eileen Herring and Karen Campbell, unfortunately the timing made it impossible to safely offer it in person, and we decided to cancel in hopes of offering it again in person.
- **UU Parenting Group [In person]** led by Karen Murray met after church on 2nd Sundays from Oct-Feb.
- **Online UU Parenting Conversation Group w/ Sadie. [Online]** In March & April this group met on Monday nights, but when that time proved challenging for parents, Sunday after church was requested. The group switched to meeting after church May 3rd with a kid breakout room hosted by Ericka LaValley and Asher Thomas or Cindy Hudson. This is the start of a more focused support for parents during this time of virtual church.
- **Women of Wisdom [In person & Online]** was led by Gail McMorrow-Donahue & Chris Parker. We had 20 women gathering monthly to reflect on the stories of their lives. They met from Oct - March on evenings closest to the full moon. Starting in May they met online through Zoom.
- **The Men and Masculinities Group [In person & Online]** was led by Harry Purkheiser and Ben Atherton-Zeman. The group met monthly, drew ten to fifteen male-identified people each month, of various ages. The group addressed challenging topics: male socialization, feminism, male violence, "Alpha Males," feelings and families. In-person meetings were replaced by Zoom meetings after March..

Faith in Knowledge

- **Going to UUA General Assembly Webinar [Online]** On Feb. 10th. Rev. Allison and Sadie co-led a webinar to share information about attending the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly which was to take place in Providence, RI in June 2020. The goal was to encourage a large group for UU Nashua to attend this great opportunity to connect with our wider UU community. Unfortunately GA needed to shift to an entirely virtual conference. A new Online webinar was recorded on May 27th with updated Online information.
- **All Ages Worship Webinars [Online]** On Jan 6th & 14th Rev. Allison and Sadie co-led webinars for families with young children and for those seeking to be allies to understand and to support those who come to church with young children. The webinars covered stages of faith and how important it is for children and youth to be part of a congregation's worship experience. Rev. Allison and Director of Faith Formation co-led these workshops with the intention of sharing advice for how we can grow as a congregational community that supports and welcomes our families into our community. These webinars aligned with the creation of the new family worship area. Two pews were removed and stored on the auditorium stage while we tried out the expanded family worship area and moved the family corner out from under the balcony and walkways into a sanctuary worship area. The new area was intended to be evaluated and explored through the spring, but this experience was cut short by moving to online worship in mid March. In the brief time that the new family worship area was used, we saw families who were grateful that they could now hear the service for the first time, and valued being able to sit with their family and feel part of the congregation. We saw adults who attended the webinars share their growing understanding of the values and importance of supporting children and families in our worship time together. We also heard from a few members who felt this process was too rushed or concerned with how it might affect their worship experience. We hope ongoing listening and learning and growing together can happen again once we can gather safely for worship.
- **EAT SHARE LEARN [In person & Online]** Started in Feb, with Rev. Allison and Sadie introduced this daytime discussion lunch group they were planning to host on 3rd Wednesdays from Noon – 1:30 in the Church Dining Room. The first lunch was indeed held in February and after that we moved them online. Eat Share Learn has been held on Zoom every Wednesday at noon for one hour since the end of March hosted by Sadie and Rev. Allison on alternative weeks.
- **Unitarian Universalist History DVD & Discussion Group [In person]** led by Kevin Emery Ross. 2nd Tuesday And ran from Nov-March.

- **Starting Points Class UU 101 [In person]** met on 3rd Thursdays evenings in Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb led by Rev. Allison Palm & Karen Thomas.
- **Black Heritage NH Walking Tour of Portsmouth, NH [In person]** was held on Oct, 12, 2019. 12 Participants gathered to learn about black history in Portsmouth and New Hampshire from as early as the 1600s.

Faith in Spirit

- **Poetry As Spiritual Practice [In person & Online]** met 4th Monday evenings From Sept-Feb led by Roy Goodman with attendance of 3-5 participants each month. This program continued to meet 2nd & 4th Mondays on zoom from March onward and plans to continue through the summer. Roy shifted the format of the group from gather to sit and write poetry to include sharing poetry aloud online. Online we saw more participation with 4-10 people gathering twice a month.
- **Sound Healing [In person]** on Oct 7th Karen Campbell hosted Kathleen Hubbard RN, BSN of Jivana in Townsend, MA. Kathleen is a holistic practitioner specializing in energy and sound healing.
- **RENEW Retreat [Canceled]** Karen Campbell was planning to lead an afternoon meditation retreat in the Sanctuary on April 18th, but unfortunately, this couldn't happen in person.
- **Switch it Up Sundays - Spiritual Practice Workshops [Online]** took place on Mar. 29th and May 31st. These were both 20 minute workshops within our Switch-It-Up Sundays. Our days when adults have a chance to choose faith formation workshops and children usually stay for the service. Since both of these Sunday happened after March 15th, they were both held online and children could also join any workshop.
 - Singing for your Spirit w/ Jed Holland (March & May)
 - Writing Prayers w/ Lindsey Sylvester (March & May)
 - Art as Creation w/ Ginger Hedges & Nona Storer (March & May)
 - Mandalas w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene (March)
 - Chalice Art w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene (May)
 - Meditation w/ Karen Campbell (March & May)
 - Yoga w/ Pat Ladew (March & May)
 - Lectio Divina w/ Rev. Allison Palm (March & May)
 - 20 second sabbath w/ Ben Atherson-Zeman (May)
- **Worship Workshop. [Online]** Rev. Allison led this four-week class for Summer worship service leaders to help write sermons and plan their summer worship service. She shifted this program to be taught online and shifted to content on how to lead an online summer worship service.

Faith Formation Plans for 2020-2021

For next year we are still putting the plans together for what online and remote faith formation will look like in the very likely situation that we need to continue social distancing until it is safe to gather in our church building again.

For As Long as we need to offer Church Distantly, You can look forward to:

- Monthly At-Home church packets that will go out to every child & youth registered in faith formation
- Weekly zoom gatherings during the week with families and church staff or volunteers
- An online Coming Of Age program for 8th & 9th graders co-led by Church staff, possibly in connection with Coming of Age webinars offered by the UUA.
- Programs that lift up our Values and Mission

Faith Formation Staff

Sadie Kahn-Greene's Director of Faith Formation

Sadie continues to create, implement and support on-going development of church wide faith formation. Sadie cares about every age group at UU Nashua and focused on every age group this year. Her work included:

- Supporting babies and toddlers and helping them and their families to feel welcome through new wiggle and wonder program and the creating the expanded family corner, and nursery care.
- Connecting with preschool and elementary children in children's chapel, supporting a new engaging curriculum that provides children with the chance to make choices about what kind of church morning works best for them, movement, art, justice or spiritual practice.
- Offering support for Youth programs of Our Whole Lives, Youth Group gatherings and outings as well as encouraging the skills and interests of teens who wish to help with younger children in faith formation.
- Coordinating monthly young adult outings to help foster connections among members in their 20s & 30s both for those who grew up in the congregation and to welcome those newer to our faith. Laughing together builds authentic connections!
- Working with adults who wish to share and lead a wide range of programs for fellow adults as well as leading webinars and hosting UU History games in person and online.
- Recruiting leaders to lead groups for women to gather and for men across generations to join and share in a supportive community.
- Fostering moments of wonder, reflection and connection in all-ages worship and community events.

Administrative Highlights

- Used Breeze software for registration, events, volunteer schedules & attendance tracking
- Used Canva for graphic design tool for announcement in print and on social media
- Maintained the new monthly bulletin board in the dining room with Rev. Allison
- Posted more frequently about faith formation on a variety of social media platforms

Professional development/denominational activities included the LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Assoc.) Fall Conference in Baltimore, MD; LREDA Cluster Meeting in Hartford. Sadie finished her 3-year term on the Nominating Committee for the New England LREDA Chapter. Sadie attended training and follow-up consultations about Covenant led by the New England Region with Brenna Woods and Pat Ladew. Sadie served as a credentialing mentor providing monthly advisory support for a religious educator going through the UUA Religious Education Credentialing program that Sadie completed in 2011. Sadie met monthly with Maura Barber, the Director of Religious Education at the Manchester UU Church. Sadie also helped with the worship service for the UU Action NH spring summit. Sadie plans to attend the virtual UUA General Assembly online in June 2020 and hopes GA will return to Providence before too long!

Ericka LaValley Faith Formation Assistant

Ericka helps with administrative support of the program as well as providing another helpful and welcoming staff person present almost every Sunday, welcomes families at the welcome table, helps to set up for each Sunday, offers childcare after services and helps everything run smoother with her optimism and dedication. This year after-church childcare was regularly used twice a month for meetings after church. Ericka would open the nursery during worship at the request of parents and offered assistance to families with young children in the family corner and then in the expanded worship areas. Ericka also provides staff support on Sundays that Sadie has off. Ericka supports faith formation program preparations and administration for four hours on Sunday mornings during the program year and worked one hour during Sundays in July and two hours on Sundays in August. Ericka also attended and took notes at monthly Faith Formation Associate planning meetings while we met in person. After March, Ericka created games to play with the faith formation children in a breakout room that she led with another volunteer while their parents met with Sadie, assisted as a co-host in the Thursday kid's room when additional support was needed and assisted with faith formation administrative tasks as

assigned, including assistance with obtaining volunteers for online faith formation events.

Teen Assistants

We are lucky to have two teens from our congregation that worked as assistant Child Care Providers. The teens Sadie hired for childcare assistants this year were: **Asher Thomas and Camille Tremblay**. Asher Thomas helped in the family corner or in the nursery as needed on Sunday. Asher and Camille worked to help with after church childcare needs.. These assistants worked directly with Ericka Lavalley to offer childcare if needed before, during, and after Sunday morning worships. They also help provide support in setting up materials and spaces on Sunday mornings. **Doug Eberle** shifted his role from childcare helper last year to helping as a Sunday Morning assistant a few mornings this year helping set up supplies and materials for workshop and all ages service.

Thank you for being such a wonder-filled community and for the grace and support you have shown as we all navigate this new way of doing church. We are still very much connected even as we are apart. I look forward to wondering and creating another year of Faith Formation with you all!

**Respectfully Submitted,
Sadie Kahn-Greene
Director of Faith Formation**

Additional Note From Faith Formation Associate Lea Anne Atwell:

Being involved with the Faith Formation program this year has helped me in my own spiritual journey. Helping plan and facilitate the Love in Action workshops gave me opportunities to learn more about the needs of our community, and live out our UU Principles through community service. I loved getting to know the children in the church. I learned a lot from them and was inspired by their curiosity and how much they care about the world around them. I also really enjoyed getting to know other adults during our monthly planning meetings and through working with my fellow workshop leaders. It was great to meet so many people with skills, interests, and life experiences different from my own. Being part of the program has helped me feel more connected to our church community, and I have made some new friends (which is not an easy thing to do in middle age!!). I really appreciate the enthusiasm, warmth, and creativity that Sadie brings in her role to guide the creation and implementation of these workshops. She helped make the group feel very welcoming and open to new ideas.

As a parent, I think the workshop-based model worked really well. I appreciated that my son (third-grade) had choices about which Faith Formation classes to attend and could pick something that was in line with his own interests. My kindergarten-aged daughter always loved going to her Chalice Children class and enjoyed the hands-on activities and stories.

Since we have been staying home, I have been concerned about how to help my kids feel connected to others. It has been challenging to find ways to keep our kids engaged socially, and one of the things that concerns me the most about this time. We have regularly been attending the mid-week kids gatherings that Sadie has been hosting, and have started attending the after church meetings as well. These gatherings have given my kids chances to stay connected to others, get to know other kids that they hadn't always interacted while at church, and continue to learn about our UU faith. These meetings really have warmed my heart and given me a tremendous comfort knowing that my kids have a chance to stay connected. My kids were also so excited to get the church packets - going to pick them up and exploring their contents was the highlight of our week! I am so appreciative that our church has recognized the need for this ministry and provided these opportunities for our children to stay connected. I can't thank them enough!