

Faith Formation Annual Report 2020-2021

This annual report covers the lifespan faith formation program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua for 2020-21. This year's program included online programs, materials delivered to families and congregants, as well as our outdoor drop-in events. All were reimagined this year to offer faith formation during this ongoing pandemic.

Budget: The Faith Formation program operated with the following budget, exclusive of staffing expenses:

Children & Youth Faith Formation: \$ 3350 **Adult Faith Formation:** \$800 **Total Faith Formation Budget:** \$4,150

Children & Youth Faith Formation Program Notes for 2020-2021

Faith Formation Associate Monthly Meetings & Volunteers

Faith Formation Associates meetings were held monthly for faith formation staff, associates and children and youth program volunteers. Together we reviewed learnings from the previous month's programs and brainstormed ideas for the next month's set of workshops and at-home kits.

Faith Formation Associates: *Lee Anne Atwell, Megan Holmes and Cindy Hudson.* Ericka LaValley also attended the Faith Formation Assistant joining the meeting run by Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene. We recruited additional volunteers who helped as workshop leaders and they would attend the meeting the month or week before their volunteering Sunday for training and planning.

Workshop volunteers who helped co-lead on zoom: Lee Anne Atwell, Megan Holmes and Cindy Hudson, Diane Wolfe, Amanda Banner, Peggy Cardone, Cecile Bonvouloir, Joyce Trudell, Sarah Leshay, Kayla Calabro, Dick Widhu, Riley Hudson and Mary Holland. *(more details on page 3 & 4 of this report)*

Curriculum for Children and Youth

The curriculum assembled this year was offered through a variety of ways to engage: through workshops, through at-home church kits, through attending Sunday morning worship, through helping lead worship moments online (light a chalice lighting, opening the wonder box, singing, narrating stories and sharing artwork), church kit pick up events, a summer camp week and individual conversations for families with the Director of Faith Formation. Additionally, We know that this year was beyond challenging for many families and these offerings worked for many but not everyone. Adding one more zoom just wasn't always possible, or adding at-home kits to the mix of home life was not going to work for everyone. I want everyone to know that that's ok, we all did what we needed to do to get through this pandemic and when we will be able to gather in person again, it will be a beautiful thing and we can't wait to see everyone again!

All of these offerings are 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."

UU Sources LEGO Camp - Online camp from Aug. 17th-21st

This was the first summer UU Nashua faith formation camp in a longtime and definitely the first one online. Thirteen children ages 5-12 participated and they loved it! The camp included zoom sessions with stories explaining our six UU Sources while encouraging LEGO building. Sadie adapted the UU Lego Source curriculum by Elizabeth Cogliati, and led each session with four adults and one highschool youth volunteer joined Sadie throughout the week to help make this camp possible. Sadie then wove the learnings and pictures of the many of the LEGO creations into an online summer worship service shared with the congregation on Aug. 23rd, 2020.

Coming Of Age

With programs being online this year we also needed to reimagine what a Coming of Age program would look like. UU Nashua Church staff had the desire, time and technical experience to offer it in a new way this year, so they took the lead on this program. It became a joint online program with UU Manchester and UU Nashua that we offered through Zoom. The leaders Rev. Allison Palm, DFF Sadie Kahn Greene and Ministerial Intern Ben Atherton-Zeman partnered with Maura Barber, the Director of Religious Exploration from UU Manchester. Youth were matched with mentors from each congregation, Chris H. was mentored by Sarah Leshay, Adam M.'s mentor was Marissa Volpe and Nathan G.'s mentor was Jay Guernari. We gathered once a month on Sunday Evenings to explore our values, our Unitarian Universalist history, as well as activities and conversations that invited our youth to explore and articulate their beliefs. We included materials to work on from home including UU journals, and even watercolor cookies for us to paint together on zoom. Materials and resources were shared using a padlet page - which you can see here if it's still available:

<https://padlet.com/uucnff/COA2021>. We concluded the program with a joint Coming of Age Service online for both congregations. All 7 youth shared their faith statements. We are grateful to report that our adapted program, in spite of the pandemic restrictions, was still able to provide this important rite of passage experience for our youth. We know that not all youth who could have taken Coming of Age this past year, chose to participate in our online program. We plan to open up the opportunity for these youth to participate when we offer it again in 2022-23.

At Home Kits & Zoom Workshops

We had 35 registered for At-Home kits this year, families could request kits for preschool children or younger, kids, or high school youth, as well as Coming of Age kits for youth in 8th & 9th grade. Kits were available at socially distant pick ups at the church once a month.

Additionally several super helpful volunteers helped drop off kits to families' houses as needed. Thank you to our delivery drivers: Ericka LaValley, Cindy Hudson, Lea Anne Atwell, Lindsey Sylvester, Geri Davidson, Victoria Agnew, Jed Holland, Cecile Bonvouloir, Peggy Cardone, Karen Murray & Kathleen Griffis!

Each at-home kit includes activities for Wonder, Courageous Community, Authentic Connection & Love in Action. The Authentic Connection materials included what we called "Soul Work" to offer moments that allow for focused attention on what's important and on one's heart. These were offered as a choice to explore during our Sunday mornings worship services. Some children did the soul work activities while their families attended online church services, while other families shared that they engaged with soul work at another time when it works best to settle down to color or create. One thing we didn't want to miss while being apart was seeing and celebrating everyone's artwork, so families often shared soul work creations and Jed Holland would add them to the "From You I Receive" or "Spirit of Life" videos for Sunday worship services.

Each month on the 2nd Sunday of the month (Occasionally the 3rd Sunday) there were workshop choices for Children and youth during the Sunday mornings service, using breakout rooms. These workshops were a way to offer connection and a space to explore the at-home kits together.

Details of this year's At-home kits and monthly workshops that went with them are in the charts below.

Faith Formation Programs for Children & Youth At Home Kits & Workshops by Month

	September Renewal	October Deep Listening	November Healing	December Stillness	January Imagination
At-Home Kits for children and youth	<p>Each child/youth in the program received a small box that could be refilled each month with new at-home church materials.</p> <p>Sept Kits Included:</p> <p>Wonder: Wonderstar Origami paper strips</p> <p>Love in Action: Get out the Vote Postcards</p> <p>Courageous Community: UU Animal Sticker Friends & Card to Welcome Rev. Allison's new baby!</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Origami Paper, Coloring Pages, Wikki sticks, Water dissolving paper for All Souls service.</p>	<p>At-home kit refill:</p> <p>Wonder: Mandala Card w/ Stickers, Mindful Listening Cards.</p> <p>Love in Action: CropWalk Goldfish Card Game & Crop Walk Materials</p> <p>Courageous Community: UU Listen Fortune teller cards</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Color changing tea-light, Sparkle pens & Coloring Pages.</p>	<p>At-home kit refill:</p> <p>Wonder: Gratitude Prayer Outline & I'm listening song lyrics</p> <p>Love in Action: Fair trade treat and tea cup card to give away. & Invitation to church leaf clean up and end 68 hours of hunger bag packing event.</p> <p>Courageous Community: DIY dice & Connection dice game.</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Air-dry Clay for Making Chalices, Scratch art cards & Animal stickers.</p>	<p>At-home kit refill:</p> <p>Wonder: Star Ornament kit & Luminaria bags to decorate</p> <p>Love in Action: Holiday Greeting cards to send to fellow UU Nashua families & elders. Invitation to donate to the Nashua Soup Kitchen</p> <p>Courageous Community: Coloring pages for the Solstice Service & Instruction for participating in the Solstice service on Dec. 20th.</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Advent Boxes for Dec, Stained glass coloring cards, Holiday garland, Hot cocoa or tea!</p>	<p>At-home kit refill:</p> <p>Wonder: Imagination drawing cards & My imagination song lyrics & Quotes for youth</p> <p>Love in Action: Watercolor postcards to thank healthcare workers</p> <p>Courageous Community: "Imagine if..." Fortune teller</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Watercolor paints, Rainbow Crayon, Origami, Stickers & Coloring pages.</p>
Workshops	<p>Wonder: Wonder Stars with Cindy Hudson & Diane Wolfe</p> <p>Love in Action - GOTV postcards w/ Megan Holmes & Victoria Agnew</p> <p>Courageous Community: Animal Stickers Games w/ Ericka Lavalley & Joyce Trudell</p>	<p>Love in Action: Crop Walk Gold fish game w/ Peggy Cardone & Lea Ann Atwell</p> <p>Courageous Community: Listening Fortuneteller game w/ Ericka LaValley & Megan Holmes</p> <p>Wonder: I'm Listening Song & Listening Game w/ Cindy & Diane Wolfe</p>	<p>Courageous Community: Dice Rolling Community Building Game w/ Ericka LaValley & Megan Holmes</p> <p>Wonder: I Can Heal Song and ABC Gratitude Prayer w/ Cindy, Riley Hudson & Diane Wolfe</p>	<p>Pageant Rehearsal workshop: Recording lines and creating props for the Dec. 20th Online Solstice pageant w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene, Ericka LaValley & Megan Holmes, Lee Anne Atwell</p>	<p>Courageous Community: Imagination Pictures & Games w/ Ericka LaValley & Megan Holmes</p> <p>Wonder: Painting Thank you cards for Health Care Workers w/ Cindy, Riley Hudson & Amanda Banner</p>
Kit Pick up & Drop Off	Families signed up for a time to come to a socially distant pick up in the Church parking lot. Volunteers also delivered to families who requested it.				
Coming of Age sessions	Kick off event for youth and families	Big Questions	Covenant & "Who Am I?" questions	Many ways of talking about God	UU Q & A w/ Rev. Allison

	February Beloved Community	March Commitment	April Becoming	May Story	June Summer
At-Home Kits for children and youth	<p>Wonder: “Beloved Community is...” Card & Anti-Racist Coloring Book Pages.</p> <p>Love in Action: Valentine Making Kit to send a card to Sherri Woolsey</p> <p>Courageous Community: “Talking Gets Us There” Poem and Valentine Puppet face from UU Nashua.</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Fueling the Flame Card</p>	<p>Wonder: UU Commitment Cards & Highlighter pen</p> <p>Love in Action: Affirmations Stickers to share.</p> <p>Courageous Community: Mystery Game Bag with Question Prompts</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Fuzzy Color Pages, Galaxy Stress Ball, Coloring Bookmark & UU Nashua Core Values Coloring Page.</p> <p>& Whole Church kits included: treats, materials for Easter and one year later service, as well as Ben’s ordination gift.</p>	<p>Wonder: Butterfly Stickers and Water Diffusing Butterfly Paper</p> <p>Love in Action: Egg shaped chalk for messages of love & flower and earth shaped seed paper</p> <p>Courageous Community: Fair trade easter eggs to enjoy!</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Rainbow Stacking Crayons, Coloring Bookmarks, Wikki Sticks, Coloring Pages, Outdoor Challenge for youth.</p>	<p>Wonder: Make your own Comic, Face Stickers, Coloring pages</p> <p>Love in Action: Colors of the World Art Materials</p> <p>Courageous Community: “Story Dice pages, “yes, and..”Stories Prompts</p> <p>Authentic Connection: 7 UU History Stories from the Story Walk, Reverse Coloring pages, Blank books, Cup Of Light or CREDO book for each family.</p>	<p>Wonder: Rainbow Glasses & Water Beads.</p> <p>Love in Action: Stickers for Little Free Farmstand Bags</p> <p>Courageous Community: Scavenger hunts Prompts</p> <p>Authentic Connection: Activity and Journaling prompts for the summer, Coloring pages, Flower stickers,</p>
Kit-Pick up events	Families pick up in the parking lot & volunteers deliver as needed!	Pick up event for the WHOLE Church in the parking lot. Deliveries as well!	Egg hunts for families along the paths of the cemetery. In person child dedications as well Deliveries as requested. 40 attendees throughout the morning!	UU History Story Walk pick up event - for families and the congregation - 60 attendees throughout the day!	<i>This will be a drop-in flower communion event!</i>
Zoom workshops	<p>Courageous Community: “Making Pop Up Valentines” w/ Ericka LaValley & Karen Murray</p> <p>Wonder: “Valentines and Stories” w/ Cindy Hudson & Megan Holmes</p> <p>Love in Action: Feb 21 Beloved Community & Anti-racist Coloring book with Sadie & Lea Anne Atwell & Cecile Bonvouloir & Cindy Hudson.</p>	<p>Courageous Community: “Mystery Bag Guessing Games” w/ Megan Holmes & Amanda Banner</p> <p>Wonder: “Commitment Cards” w/ Cindy Hudson & Sarah Leshay</p>	<p>Courageous Community: “Show & Tell Scavenger Hunts” w/ Megan Homes, Mary Holland & Joyce Trudell</p> <p>Wonder: “Butterfly Art” w/ Lea Anne Atwell, Peggy Cardone</p>	<p>Courageous Community: “Story Cube Storytelling” w/ Ericka LaValley & Joyce Trudell</p> <p>Wonder: “Sharing Stories” w/ Cindy Hudson, Kayla Calabro</p>	<p>There will not be a kids workshop in June.</p> <p>There will be an online UU Wizarding Camp June 28th- July 2nd for UU Nashua participants to join in the online camp with UU’s up and down the east coast! So far we have 7 UU nashua kids signed up!</p>
Coming of Age	<i>Art & Faith w/ cookie decorating!</i>	<i>Credo Writing</i>	COA Worship Planning	<i>Credo writing sessions for each youth / mentor pair with Sadie to support and finalize each youth’s faith statement.</i> COA Worship Service on May 16th	

Adult Faith Formation in 2020-2021

Here are the adult faith formation programs offered in 2020-2021 categorized by the five pathways which are part of the Adult Faith Formation Road Map. All of these programs were offered remotely through Zoom this year.

1. Faith in Action

Racial Justice Movie Nights This program began last June. Jess Woods and Jenn Morton hosted the first one on June 14th with 26 participants! The following sessions had fewer attendees, but offered rich conversations. The group took a break in the fall and restarted in February co-lead by Jess Woods and Fahmina Zaman from Bridges in Nashua. The movies were either streamed over zoom or watched from home. Participants were invited to join for a follow up conversation about the movies. This program will continue next year with in person events, hopefully an outdoor movie this summer if possible.

Racial Justice Movie Night Programs

<i>June 14th - "Just Mercy"</i>	<i>July "African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross- Rise 1940-1968"</i>	<i>February 21st "I Am Not Your Negro"</i>
<i>March 21st - "13th"</i>	<i>April 9th - postponed due to low turnout</i>	<i>May 16th "We Need to Talk About Anti-Asian Hate"</i>

Land Acknowledgement Planning Group. This group formed mid year among those interested in helping develop a land acknowledgement for UU Nashua. This is both a Faith in Learning and Faith in Action program, and learning is a big part of this work. Group participants are intentionally looking at researching the history of land in our church areas, offering educational opportunities for learning for our group and the congregation as well as building relationships with indigenous communities in our area as we plan next steps. The group worked with Tristan Husby of UU action NH to bring speakers Paul And Denise Pouliot leaders of the Cowasuch Band of the Pennacook Abanaki People to share a "Spirituality and Significance of Land Acknowledgements" workshop over Zoom on March 3rd. Since that informative workshop this planning group has met every 2-3 week and is planning to lead a worship service for the church in October and share a series of faith formation programs (book discussions, movie viewings, etc.) for the congregation in the fall of 2021. Harry Purkhiser has been hosting these meetings and current group leaders are: Dick & Sarah Widhu, Kim Steele, Alyson Jutrus, Paul Introcaso, Victoria Agnew, Tristan Husby, Sadie Kahn-Greene and Mandy Eberle.

30 Days of Love (MLKjr Day - Valentines Day) Church staff shared the resources shared by the Side With Love campaign at the UUA and their [30 Days of Love Curriculum](#). Thirty Days of Love is an annual celebration that runs from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine's Day in February. It is an opportunity to lift up the ways Unitarian Universalists and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice. Each week, we shared a menu of activities for individuals to interact with, connected with the weekly theme. There were playlists for general, kid, youth, and family/multigenerational audiences which will include activities in the categories of Read, Watch, Participate, Listen, and Worship. Rev. Allison, Ben, Sadie and Harry Purkhiser and Eileen Herring also all led mid week Eat Share Learn sessions with this material in January & February.

2. Faith in Community

Covenant groups We have five covenant 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 lead one online with elders at the Huntington, Karen Thomas led one online 1st & 3rd Wednesdays for most of the year and then reduced to meeting once a month in the Spring. Bob Keating's group met online every 1st Sunday evening. Gail McMorrow Donahue and Bob Coulter co-lead their group online on 4th Sunday evenings. Laurie Goodman leads our newly formed Women's covenant group every 3rd Sunday evening. Director of Faith Formation, Sadie Kahn-Greene, met monthly with covenant leaders to review each upcoming session assembled by one of the covenant leaders based on the month's soul matters theme.

20s-30s Group We shifted away from monthly social events due to low availability to attend online events, but did still welcome at least 5 new young adults who have been attending online worship and other events this year, in addition to our high number of young adult members and leaders in our congregation. A planning and informational conversation about the UU Nashua young adult group took place on May 2nd and the group would like to continue with occasional social events next year once meeting in person is possible again.

UU Hikers Group Once we are in the yellow zone on our church covid policy UU hikes can resume and a group of 17 congregants joined a conversation to share ideas with 5 volunteers offering to help lead UU Hikes again in the future. We look forward to restarting this program soon!

3. Faith in Spirit

Poetry As Spiritual Practice This program is led by Roy Goodman online and met every 2nd & 4th Mondays on zoom from most of the year, and shifted to meeting on just the 4th Monday in the Spring. Roy leads the group in both writing and sharing poetry for their gatherings.

Spiritual Practice and Deepening Spiritual Practice Karen Campbell led this throughout the year on 1st & 3rd Mondays to a core group of 6-10 participants who attended most sessions. These two programs are part of the Faith Forward curriculum packages that we also used for many of our Faith in Knowledge Programs. Karen likes this curriculum and plans to lead it online again in Fall 2021.

RENEW Retreat On Sat. Dec. 5th Karen Campbell offered this online meditation retreat to guide participants to reflect on questions related to spiritual renewal. 8 participants attended this well-received program.

Worship Workshop. Rev. Allison led this three-week class for Summer worship service leaders.

4. Faith in Life

Parents of Preschoolers "POP" video curriculum by religious educator Jen Anderson-Shattuck. This is a video series about raising children as a Unitarian Universalist family. Three videos were available each month from Oct. - May along with worksheets guided reflections.

The Men and Masculinities Group Harry Purkhiser and Ben Atherton-Zeman and Jim Bonvouloir led this group that met monthly online. The group included high school youth who attend with a parent, young adults, adults and elders. It offers a meaningful multi-generational experience for the participants to reflect on a wide range of topics ranging from "Letting Go", "Relationships during Covid", "toxic masculinity" and more. While Ben helped start and facilitate this year during these 2 years with our congregation as the Ministerial Intern, Jim Bonvouloir and Carl Phillips have agreed to continue to lead the group next year in the form of a monthly men's covenant group.

5. Faith in Knowledge

“Faith Forward:From Visitor to Leader” Unitarian Universalist Curriculum. Upon learning about Faith Forward while attending a Workshop at the General Assembly Sadie was excited to bring this program to UU Nashua. With faith formation funds left over from 2019-2020 we purchased this \$1,000 curriculum that includes access to and materials for ten Adult Faith Formation programs that offers “a guided path for Unitarian Universalists to follow in their congregations, helping them navigate from building connections early on, to finding their sense of belonging as a member, to serving as a leader and boldly living their faith.”(faithforwarduu). After this year there is a \$250 renewal fee for all these materials. More classes are being added to the curriculum each year and soon there will be leadership classes that we look forward to sharing as well. Here is more information about this program. <https://faithforwarduu.org/about>

Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader programs offered at UU Nashua in 2020-2021

The UU History 101, UU Theology, Turning Points in UU History were woven into the weekly Wed. **Eat Share Learn** program that was co-led by Rev. Allison, Sadie and Intern Ben Atherton-Zeman. Attendance for this program ranged from 3-8 through the year.

Coming of Age for Adults -This is a 6-session series designed for adults of all ages to explore their spiritual journey and religious identity. It was led online by Intern Ben A-Z, Lindsey Sylvester & Jeff Beland with behind the scenes support from Sadie Kahn-Greene. 11 adults participated. This kind of program has been requested by adults over the years, and this program was well received and will be offered again in Spring 2022.

Inquirers & Beyond Inquirers - Karen Thomas worked with church staff to co-host these sessions after church in the Sunday zoom room. As a drop-in series of 14 conversations, they offered a general introduction to a variety of areas of congregational life and Unitarian Universalism. It served as a joint program between membership and adult faith formation. This program will continue to be offered in 2021-2022.

UU Elevator Speech -One session from this curriculum was offered during switch-it-up Sunday on May 23rd led by Eileen Herring. We hope to offer this full 3 session program in 2021-2022.

Reading Discussion Group - The Group was co-led by Harry Purkhiser and Carl Phillips and met online on 1st & 3rd Tuesday for most of the year to talk about short books and articles chosen by the group to explore together.

Switch it Up Sundays - They are offered during months with 5 Sundays and took place on Jan 31st and May 23rd this year. These offer a chance for everyone on a Sunday morning to explore the faith formation topic of their choice. Below are the workshops and leaders for this year's offerings.

<p>Jan. 31st - Workshops for Pandemic Winter Doldrums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Journaling For the Soul w/ Rev. Allison Palm ● Pandemic Playlist w/ Jed Holland & Sherri Woolsey ● Planning Your Garden & Starting Seeds w/ Tess George ● Advocacy Postcards w/ Paul Introcaso & Jessica Price ● Cards for Church Penpals w/ Dick Widhu & Ericka LaValley ● Art Share w/ Tina Marshman ● Book Buzz w/ Eileen Herring ● Humor During a Pandemic:how to write a silly song w/ Ben Atherton Zeman 	<p>May 23rd - Workshops for UU Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our UU Theological House w/ Rev. Allison Palm ● Chalice Creation Scavenger Hunt w/ Ericka LaValley ● Your Covenant Triangle w/ Jess Woods ● Writing Your UU Elevator Speech w/ Eileen Herring ● UU History Card Game w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene ● UU Hymns & History w/ Jed Holland
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Faith Formation Plans for 2021-2022

As we look at next year we once again have the challenges and opportunities before us as we look forward to gathering in person when it is safe for our community to do so. We plan to learn from what worked this year, and keep learning and exploring what might work during and after the tail end of the pandemic. We want the focus of the year to be connection, covenant and community as we focus on relationship building and getting to know one another in person as well as online where needed.

The kind of programs we will offer will be connected to where we are in the color coded Covid Policy. If we are in the Green, that's a green light for gathering indoors, with precautions listed in the policy.

Children and Youth 2021-2022

At-home kits will most likely continue for families who request them.

We know we plan to offer monthly workshops on Sunday mornings once a month. They will be online, outdoor or indoor workshops or a combination of the three. The format will depend on if we are in the yellow, green or hopefully purple zone of our covid policy.

We have three youth advisors, Sarah Leshay, Jay Gueneri & Marissa Volpe ready to host social events for 9th-12th grade youth for outdoor adventures in the fall. We hope to build on the partnership with the youth program at UU Manchester and offer an in-person COA reunion in the fall.

We plan to offer Our Whole Lives for 7th-9th graders during the year as well.

All Ages Faith Formation - Monthly Program choices after church (so many possibilities)

Starting in October, we plan to offer a variety of ways small groups can gather and explore faith formation activities together for an hour after worship.

These could be a time for:

- Adult covenant groups who meet in person
- Families who join with their kids for outdoor or indoor activities
- Workshop choices for kids, youth and adults
 - a book discussions in one room
 - a movie viewing in another
 - walking group that takes a stroll together along the Nashua River
 - joint art project, games, etc.

Adult faith formation 2021-2022

Programs will continue with a mix of online and in person events and the groups that plan to continue were listed on page 5-7 of this report. There will also be a new *UU Nashua Seniors group* for members over 60 led by Tess George and it will start in the fall!

Faith Formation Staff

Sadie Kahn-Greene, Director of Faith Formation

This was my fourth year with you all in UU Nashua and my eighteenth year in my calling as a religious educator. I continued to create, implement and support on-going development of church wide faith formation but for the first time all of this work for the year was offered in an online or socially distant way almost entirely from my house. As you can see from this annual report, we accomplished and worked our way through so much together this year!

Professional development/denominational activities included the LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Assoc.) Online Professional Days in June 2020 & Online LREDA Fall Conference 2020. Sadie attended the New Day Rising Conference in Feb - which provided the inspiration for the Covenant Triangle Stop-motion video. Sadie served as a credentialing mentor providing monthly advisory support for a religious educator going through the UUA Religious Education Credentialing program. As a trainer of UUA training modules for Religious Educators, Sadie took a 9 hour training course during March with fellow trainers and Sadie is now certified to teach all 11 modules of the Renaissance program. Sadie also joined a helpful monthly collegial conversation group over zoom facilitated by CB Beal. Sadie plans to attend the virtual UUA General Assembly online in June 2021.

Upcoming Director of Faith Formation Sabbatical

Sadie Kahn-Greene will be on her Director of Faith Formation sabbatical during the next church year from Jan. 17th- May 16th, 2022. A sabbatical for religious educators and ministers are encouraged for leaders who have worked for more than 4 years. After the whirlwind of challenges and reimagings of faith formation in 2020 and 2021 Sadie is grateful for this opportunity. The time will be used to foster rest, reflection and renewal and make space for new learning to bring back to UU Nashua. Sadie is assembling a Sabbatical Team of volunteers who will work with volunteers to offer faith formation programs planned for Jan-May and work with the congregation to reflect on the Faith Formation sabbatical process.

Ericka LaValley Faith Formation Assistant/Church Administrator

Ericka LaValley has been a solid supportive presence for the Faith Formation program this year even after she shifted from her role as Faith Formation Assistant to Church Administrator. Ericka helps with zoom tech on Sunday mornings, breeze communications and with our at-home pick up events and faith formation associate meetings, and leading online workshops for kids.

Thank you!

Thank you for being such a wonder-filled community and for the grace and support you have shown one another this year. Planning while in a pandemic is an interesting challenge for our church community. I'm so grateful that our UU Nashua staff, volunteers and community have been so generous and supportive as we navigate a whole new way of doing church together.

I close with a line of a new favorite song from this year... Becoming by Mary Grigolia *"We are, what we're becoming, we are all we have done, we are what we are dreaming, we have only just begun..."*

Respectfully Submitted,
Sadie Kahn-Greene
Director of Faith Formation