

Faith Formation Annual Report 2023-2024

This annual report covers the lifespan faith formation program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua for 2023-24. This year's program included online & in-person adult faith formation programs, in-person faith formation workshops and chapel services for children, weekly childcare during services, a youth conference, monthly multiage social events, and multigenerational moments in worship.

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

Children & Youth Faith Formation: \$ 3800 **Adult Faith Formation:** \$800 **Total Faith Formation Budget:** \$4600

Children & Youth Faith Formation Program Notes for 2023-2024

Faith Formation Associate Monthly Meetings & Volunteers

Faith Formation Associates:

Megan Holmes, Amy Curran-Norton, Ellie Geyer, Jess Lahens, Julia Firmbach, Ed Schneider, Amanda Banner, Caitlin Durgin & Jim Curran.

Faith Formation Associates met monthly with faith formation staff, associates, and children and youth program volunteers. Together, those gathered reviewed learnings from the previous month's programs and brainstormed ideas for next month's workshops and chapel services. Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene runs the meetings.

Faith Formation Curriculum for Children and Youth & Numbers

Our congregational values & mission guide and ground our program. Especially our 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." :

49 families with 69 children participated in faith formation this year.

Twenty-nine volunteers supported children & youth faith formation in one way or another this year.

- A new child or teen in faith formation lights the chalice and opens the wonder box each week. We had 32 young people participate in this way throughout the year.
- Children's Worship childcare room staffed by volunteers and young adult staff. It was open every Sunday morning all year long! Between 6-12, little ones join in the room each Sunday. (we have seventeen 0-4 year olds)
- Workshop choices are guided by the month's themes twice a month. We average 18 students each Sunday in these workshops, with 39 children (ages 4-13) participating during the year.
- We held a mixed-age children's chapel on the first Sunday of each month. Throughout the year, 37 children attend these chapels, with 10-15 kids each time.
- K-1 Our Whole Lives for nine students: Oct-Dec.
- 5th-6th grade Our Whole Lives for six students: Feb-June
- Padlet resource pages for families with resources for at-home faith formation are created by the Director of Faith Formation every month from Sept-June.
- Saturday, there will be a youth conference for three UU Nashua high schoolers and three UU Nashua middle schoolers, welcoming youth from MA and RI.
- Bridging conversation with Rev. Allison & Sadie for our one graduating high school senior
- 4 Kids Pizza and Movie nights (Sept, Nov., Jan & Apr.) welcome 26 children to these events—attendance of 12-19 per movie night.

How does faith formation adapt to our current new normal?

Our program offers flexibility and recognizes the busy lives of our families and volunteers. We understand that families are increasingly visiting once or twice a month, similar to many adults in our community. The mix of children attending varies each Sunday, with diverse participation options available. Families can join all-ages worship on Sundays, choose days for children to engage in a learning chapel, or attend specific workshops. Some families commit to all OWL Sundays for their children. We appreciate the time and involvement of our families, each connecting with UU Nashua in their unique way. We have seen such growth and connection built within our community this year. We appreciate how our children have become more comfortable here, lighting the chalice, opening the wonder box, joining in reader's theater moments, singing, and playing their instruments in service! We are dedicated to creating opportunities for children, youth, and families to connect and find meaning within UU Nashua. We are nurturing a new generation of UUs who feel welcomed in our church community and embrace the guiding values of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday Morning Workshop Choices for Pre-K- 8th Grade:

Twice a month, children can choose workshops that use one of our core values to explore a common theme. Children and volunteers (teens and adults) start in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. and then depart for their workshop, which runs through 11:15. We have three choices each week.

Wonder Workshop - Creatively led by Ellie Geyer and Jess Lahens

Our creative workshop offers art projects with a wow factor that invites children to say "Wow!" and ask, "How?" This group provided artwork for two art shows in our church gallery in February and May-June.

Courageous Community Games Workshop - Engagingly led by Megan Holmes & Ed Schneider

Our workshop offers children a chance to move, play together, and work on their annual Kid's Solstice service.

Authentic Connections Teens (ACT): Thoughtfully led by Caitlin Durgin, Amanda Banner, and Jim Curran

This workshop offers 5th-grade youth and older a chance to connect, play games, and build a community while exploring UU values and enjoy snacks.

We are so grateful for our faith formation substitutes this year! Julia Firmbach and Victoria Agnew were our regular substitutes, offering to cover any areas we needed! We were also grateful to Amy Curran-Norton, Carl Phillips, Karen Murray, Sue Cooper, and Jess Woods, who helped as backup substitutes when needed.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

OWL Kindergarten & First Graders - Facilitators: Jessica Price, Lea Anne Atwell & Paige Beauchemin

For the first time at UU Nashua, we offered the Our Whole Lives sexuality education program for grades K-1! The program served 9 children and their families and was guided by 3 volunteer facilitators. We offered it on Sunday morning and were fortunate to share the Kindergarten classroom with CWG-WW School, which was a perfect space to hold this program.

OWL for 5th Graders - Facilitators: Jessica Price, Lea Anne Atwell & Paige Beauchemin

For the second time at UU Nashua, we offered sexuality education for 5th graders with the Our Whole Lives program! The program served 6 youth and their families and was guided by 3 volunteer facilitators. Parents occasionally gathered for supportive group conversations led by Paige Beauchemin about the content and values taught each session.

OWL Training - Sadie Kahn-Greene and volunteer support hosted an Our Whole Lives leader training for junior and senior high at UU Nashua, led by Sandra Greenfield and Jane Detwiler. We hosted 13 attendees, including Paige Beauchemin and Kenna McLeod from UU Nashua, who will lead OWL in the fall.

Children's Worship Room

At UU Nashua, we currently have 23 children enrolled in faith formation within the 0-5 age group, marking the largest turnout of young children in many years. During children's worship in the childcare room, attendance ranges from 6 to 10 children, with a maximum of 12, requiring a minimum of 3 caregivers. The room is vibrant, filled with puzzles, magna-tiles, cars, stickers, and many story readings. Moreover, children and caregivers can opt to join the worship service via Zoom or gather in the family corner of the sanctuary, enabling them to actively engage in the service. Two volunteers are scheduled each week to support one of our faith formation staff caregivers. Our compassionate volunteers providing nurturing care include Michael Lahen, Cassie McCue, Sarah Leshay, Julia Firmbach, Will Kahn-Greene, and Cindy Hudson. We are delighted to welcome Mary Holland, Camille Tremblay, and Riley Hudson to assist during their summer and school breaks.

Monthly Mixed Age Children's Chapel:

The Director of Faith Formation planned and partnered with worship associates to lead the chapels together. In addition to having a worship associate join Sadie in co-leading, having a chapel assistant ready to assist with any children who needed extra support was helpful. Katie Durgin offered this support in the fall, and Jess Lahens, Ellie Geyer, and Caitlin Durgin offered this support in the winter and spring. Children's Chapel included music, guided meditation, videos, sharing joys and sorrows, and wonder box moments followed by worship projects for mixed ages to do together. We found that this model works well for younger children. However, it may be less engaging for older elementary & middle schoolers. Fewer older children attended, and those who joined had an opportunity to help with tech and reader theater roles. We plan to offer a children's chapel again during 2024-2025 and continue to offer mixed-ages opportunities to gather and learn together with multiple ways to engage.

Children and Youth 2024-2025

Our hopes and plans for next year:

- We will continue to offer workshops for elementary school children twice a month. During the fall and winter, until we return to the UU Nashua building, these may look like workshop stations in a larger room.
- Continue to offer weekly children's worship room childcare and after-church childcare.
- Continue to offer multi-age children's chapel services once a month.
- Focus on bringing UU identity and the feeling of being in our church home while we gather our temporary spaces during construction.
- Offer Our Whole Lives for 7th-9th grades in Late Fall 2024 - possibly on *Friday Nights or Sunday afternoons*.
- Continue UU Kids Movie Nights!
- Co-host another Saturday youth conference in the Spring. And offer more engaging activities and trips for high school-age youth.
- Encourage families and youth to attend the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Baltimore, MD, next June.
- Additional UU Parenting programs
- Welcome and train new volunteers!

Faith Formation Programs & Volunteers for Children & Youth by Month

	September "Welcome"	October "Heritage"	November "Generosity"	December "Mystery"	January "Liberating Love"
Children's Worship room Childcare every Sunday	Our welcoming space for children aged 5 and under is open every Sunday. It offers books, toys, simple crafts with lots of stickers, puzzles, and free play, supported by volunteers and staff.				
Children's Chapel Services 1st Sundays		"The Story of our Chalice" <i>w/ clay creations</i>	"Solstice service rehearsal Chapel".	"Solstice service rehearsal Chapel".	"Snow Day" online chapel & w/ show 'n tell
Sunday Morning Workshops 2nd & 3rd Sundays	Wonder: Welcoming Signs! Courageous Community: Building welcoming spaces Authentic Connection Teens, 5th grade & Up: "Working together & Just One"	Wonder: Painting family trees Courageous Community: UU Roots Games Authentic Connection Teens, 5th grade & Up: "Heritage & Tsuru" K/1 OWL	Wonder: Watercolor cards for Meals on Wheels Love in Action: Prep Meals on Wheel bag donations Authentic Connection Teens, 5th grade & Up: "Generosity & Apples to Apples!" K/1 OWL	Wonder: Weavings for the solstice service Courageous Community: Solstice Service Prep! K/1 OWL	Wonder: Love Will Guide Us Magnet & weaving art Courageous Community: Love Will Guide Us Group Games! Authentic Connection Teens, 5th grade & Up: "Making Connections: Spot-it Games"
Special Events	Circle Dinner w/ UU Kids Pizza & Movie Night - "Strange World" & "Bluey"	Interfaith Crop Walk Church Auction w/ Kids Movie Night "Elemental" & "Bluey"	Fall Leaf Clean-up Holiday Gift bags for NH Meals on Wheels Donation collection - we made 200 bags!	All Ages Carol Sing in the Dining Room	Circle Dinner w/ UU Kids Pizza & Movie Night - "Inside Out" & "Bluey"
All Ages Worship 4th Sundays	Water Communion,	All Souls Service	Together We Share - kindness walk	UU Kids Solstice Service - The Solstice Badger	Embodying Liberating Love - UU historical figures
Hallway Rovers	Ongoing safety & welcoming presence every Sunday morning in the halls provided by: Jess Woods, Will Kahn-Greene, Allyson Jutras, Sarah Leshay, Jay Guarneri, Tiffany Holmes, and Paul Cardone.				

Faith Formation Programs & Volunteers for Children & Youth by Month cont.

	February “Justice & Equity”	March “Transformation”	April “Interdependence ”	May “Pluralism”	June
Children’s Worship room Childcare every Sunday	<i>Ongoing supportive caregiving by Emma Goyette & Sam Murray, Cindy Hudson, Michael Lahens, Sarah Leshay, Jess Woods, Cassie McCue, Will Kahn-Greene, Julia Firmbach</i>				
Children’s Chapel Services 1st Sundays	“Room on the Rug” w/ reader’s theater	UU Kids Bake Sale & Lemonade Stand!	“Interdependence” w/ the puzzle poster	“Pluralism” w/ readers theater & creative coloring cards	“End of Year Celebrations” w/ wonder boxes from all year!
Sunday Morning Workshops 2nd & 3rd Sundays	<p>Wonder & Love in Action: Valentines for the Nashua Shelter</p> <p>Courageous Community: Unfair Candyland</p> <p>Authentic Connection Teens: Unfair Candyland</p> <p>4/5 OWL program</p>	<p>Wonder: Transformation Butterfly Art</p> <p>Courageous Community: Transformation & Lego Builds</p> <p>Authentic Connection Teens: “Transformation & Tellastrations”</p> <p>4/5 OWL program</p>	<p>Wonder: Working together on drawings.</p> <p>Courageous Community: Interdependence Jenga</p> <p>Authentic Connection Teens: Interdependence: Jenga & Sorry</p> <p>4/5 OWL program</p>	<p>Wonder: Making Mandalas</p> <p>Courageous Community: Inclusive Charades</p> <p>Authentic Connection Teens: Pluralism & Dixit</p> <p>4/5 OWL program</p>	<p><i>Prek-8th grade Sunday morning workshops will return in September 2024!</i></p> <p>4/5 OWL program</p>
Special events	All Ages Pizza & Game Night	<p>After church, there is an Easter Egg Hunt!</p> <p>UU Kids Lemonade Stand & Bake Sale</p>	Circle Dinner & UU Kids Pizza & Movie Night - “My Neighbor Totoro” & “Zootopia”	We hosted a 30-hour jr & senior high OWL training! May 3rd-5th	Outdoor Summer Kickoff Party!
All Ages Service 4th Sundays	Room on the Rug - w/ children’s readers theater	Easter Sunday w/ Child Dedications	Interdependent Web - clay creations & conversations	Reverse Question Box Service	Flower Communion & Pride Service!
Hallway Rovers	Ongoing safety & welcoming presence every Sunday morning in the halls provided by Will Kahn-Greene, Allyson Jutras, Tiffany Holmes, Jay Guarneri & Jon McCue.				

Adult Faith Formation in 2023-2024

Here are the Adult Faith Formation programs offered in 2023-2024 categorized to match the core Values of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua.

1. Adult Faith Formation: Authentic Connection

Covenant groups:

Six covenant groups led by church members convene monthly to share, listen, and delve into readings and discussions aligned with the month's worship theme. Sadie Kahn-Greene, the Director of Faith Formation, held monthly meetings with covenant leaders from August to May to review upcoming sessions curated by one of the leaders based on the month's theme. Gail McMorrow-Donahue, a longstanding leader of covenant groups, stepped down as a covenant group leader, and her group is taking a hiatus. Paige Beauchemin and Kevin Ross Emery were welcomed as new leaders to the group, eager to learn and prepare for leading new covenant groups. *Here are the covenant groups we offered this year:*

- **3rd Monday Group**
Cathy Guevarra continues to lead a group that welcomes new members and meets at the church every 3rd Monday evening.
- **1st Sunday Covenant Group**
Bob Keating's group continues to meet at members' homes or outside and rotates, facilitating each gathering's good discussion, as has been their practice.
- **3rd Sunday Covenant Group**
Laurie Goodman's Women's Covenant group met in person this year with a Zoom option for members. They moved from gathering online or at people's homes in the evening to meeting on third Sundays after church in the fellowship room.
- **4th Tuesday Huntington Group**
Rev. Allison also leads one with elders at the Huntington in Nashua. Erin Scott joined Allison for many of these sessions this year to share the Article 2 discussion materials.
- **2nd Sunday Covenant Group**
Paige Beauchemin's covenant group started this year. This group meets after church and includes childcare for parents in the group. This group will continue to meet next year as well.
- **3rd Sunday Covenant Group**
Kevin Ross-Emery started a covenant group this year. It meets after church on the third Sunday. This group will continue to meet next year as well.

Caring Circles with Rev. Allison Palm & Caregiver Support Group w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene

Rev. Allison continued hosting monthly online gatherings to provide support and facilitate discussions on various life stages and transitions, including Mental Health, Neurodiverse Adults, Addiction, Challenges during the holidays, UU parenting, and aging. The "Caregivers for Loved Ones" support group, under the guidance of Sadie Kahn-Greene, regularly met in a separate breakout room for their dedicated Caring Circle.

Coffee Conversations w/ Rev. Allison Palm – 1st Sundays of the Month

Rev. Allison Palm and Erin Scott hosted a monthly drop-in conversation in the fellowship room after church for a group conversation about the month's theme and the worship service that day.

Online Grief Group Led By Karen Campbell

This online drop-in program occurs every second Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m., all year round. Karen Campbell provides new and returning participants with an opportunity to engage, connect, and receive support during times of grief. Newcomers are always encouraged to join.

2. Adult Faith Formation: Wonder

Poetry Sharing Group w/ Ellen Fisher This program met every fourth Monday on Zoom and returned to meeting at the church in May. Ellen leads the group in both writing and sharing poetry for their gatherings.

Nashua Buddhist Meditation Group Continued to gather on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., led by Sylvie Stewart this year, and they continue to meet online.

End of Life Planning w/ Rev. Allison Palm

Twelve participants join on Sunday afternoons in Oct. & Nov. for presentations and discussions about End of Life plans.

Energy Healing w/ Karen Campbell

An evening of guided & silent meditation & energy healing, and Reiki gathered on Nov. 14th.

Article II Discussion Group w/Erin Scott

Erin conducted two rounds of a four-session series to explore in-depth discussions regarding the proposed amendments to Article II of our UUA bylaws. These changes are scheduled for a vote at the UUA General Assembly in June 2024.

Unitarian Universalist History Switch-it-up Service on October 22nd offered four adult workshops and three multi-age workshops.

- Darkening the Doorways Discussion w/ Vengerflutta Smith (in the sanctuary & online)
- Multi-Age UU History Readers Theater. w/ Sadie Kahn-Greene & Charlotte Cardone
- Chalice Art w/ Ellie Geyer and Jess Lahens
- Cemetery Walk w/ Dick Widhu
- UU Nashua Archive show & tell w/ Roy Goodman & June Haskell
- Spiritual Enneagram w/ Danielle Van Dusen
- UU History Card Came w/ Erin Scott (online)

Proposed Article II revisions Switch-it-up Service offered four adult workshops and three multi-age workshops in March.

- Article II 101 w/ Erin Scott (in the sanctuary & online)
- History of UU statements of faith w/ Harry Purkhiser & Diane Wolfe
- UU Shared Values Wonder Art Collages w/ Ellie Geyer and Jess Lahens
- UU Shared Values Scavenger Hunt w/ Sonrisa O'tool (online)
- UU Shared Values Lego Builds w/ Megan Holmes & Caitlin Durgin
- Love in at the Center Conversations w/ Pat Ladew & Carl Phillips

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

3. Adult Faith Formation: Courageous Community

Intro to UU W/ Rev. Allison Palm & Erin Scott

This program is offered in-person with an online option after church 3 times throughout the year.

Exploring Membership W/ Rev. Allison Palm

This program is offered in-person with an online option after church 3 times throughout the year.

3. Adult Faith Formation: Courageous Community (cont.)

Circle Dinners

We reintroduced small group dinners hosted by congregation members at their homes or at church. Each attendee contributed a dish to share. An appreciated addition to the traditional Circle Dinners was the "Kids Pizza & Movie Night," providing childcare at the church for parents and non-parents to enjoy a social evening and foster better connections. In September, 34 adults joined the dinners. By January, the number rose to 43 participants, then decreased to 24 adults in April. Some guests attended all three dinners, while others joined one or two.

Elderberries UU Seniors Group Led by Tess George

Throughout the year, this community gathers for social events. An email list facilitates communication among members who wish to participate in museum visits, bowling, movies, lunch outings, and nature walks. With around 55 members, the group typically sees 5-25 individuals attending each event. In addition, the Elderberries organized a summer worship service in July 2023 and collaborated with Rev. Allison on the Eldering ritual, which saw significant participation on March 24th, 2024.

Nights Out in Nashua!

This year, UU Nashua organized two enjoyable social outings with group tickets.

- **The Barbie Movie.** On August 8th, 21 adults gathered at Chunky's theater to watch the Barbie movie.
- **Something Rotten.** On October 28th, 31 of us attended the performance of Something Rotten by Actor Singers. We enthusiastically supported Jed, our music director, during his tap-dancing performance!

Young Adult Group led by Tegan Cantrell & Sadie Kahn-Greene.

The group continues to rebuild. During the year, we offered sporadically attended after-church games meets and will wrap up the year with a trivia night on May 30th.

UU Hikers Group

This group offered hikes through the summer and fall.

- Alyson Jutras led a hike in Amherst on July 15th
- Caitlin & Katie Durgin led a hike to Andres Institute of Art on Sept. 23rd
- Faith Formation hosted a multigenerational walk in Mine Falls on Oct. 11th

4. Adult Faith Formation: Love in Action

"On Repentance & Repair" Book Discussion

On April 1st, Harry Purkhiser and Rev. Allison welcomed 8 participants for a book discussion On Repentance & Repair by Danya Ruttenberg.

Holiday Gift Bags for Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County

With our congregation's assistance, we packed 200 bags with donations from UU Nashua members and friends. Donations were gathered throughout November, sorted, and arranged by children involved in faith formation. Following the church service on November 26th, individuals of all ages joined to help pack the donations.

30 Days of Love resources

We shared the UU Side with Love annual 30 Days of Love curriculum

Interfaith Racial Justice Movie Group

"Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America" – Movie viewing at the Nashua Public Library hosted by the Greater Nashua NAACP

Adult Faith Formation Programs schedule from Sept 2023 -June 2024

September "Welcome"	October "Heritage"	November "Generosity"	December "Mystery"	January "Liberating Love"
Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 4 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group UU Hikers Safe Congregation Training Circle Dinners Elderberry meet up	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 4 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Article 2 Reflection Group UU History Switch it Up Sunday Intro to UU Night out in Nashua Elderberry meet up	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 4 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Energy Healing End of Life planning Exploring Membership 4 Covenant Groups Love in Action Bag Packing event Article 2 Reflection Group	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 4 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Carol Sing Elderberry meet up	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 4 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Circle Dinners Young Adult Games Meet-ups Let's talk about Love conversations Exploring Membership Elderberry meet up
February "Justice & Equity"	March "Transformation"	April "Interdependence"	May "Pluralism"	June
Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 7 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Young Adult Meet-ups Intro to UU Article 2 Reflection Group Elderberry meetup	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 7 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Article II - Switch it Up Sunday 7 Covenant Groups Exploring Membership Article 2 Reflection Group Elderberry lunch	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 7 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Intro to UU Nashua UU Common Read Book Discussion Interfaith sacred poetry event Summer worship leader workshop Elderberry meet up Circle Dinners	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group Coffee conversations Caring Circle & Caregiver Support Group 7 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Interfaith book club Summer worship leader workshop Young Adult Group Trivia Night Elderberry lunch	Poetry Sharing Group Grief Group 7 Covenant Groups Buddhist Meditation Group Elderberry Games Afternoon End of church Party at Greeley Park

Adult Faith Formation 2024-2025

Here are some of the program and new group ideas for next year.

- Renew Faith Forward curriculum & offer the following programs
 - “UU Biblical Literacy,” “Coming of Age for Adults,” & “UU History”
- Sustain covenant groups for small group ministry, Circle Dinners, Poetry Sharing Group, Grief Group, Buddhist Meditation, book discussions, and diverse Sundays.
- Summer Camping trip planned for Aug. 23-25th, 2024 at Pawtuckaway State Park.

Faith Formation Staff

Sadie Kahn-Greene, Credentialed Religious Educator, Director of Faith Formation (Aug 2017-Present)

Sadie’s Professional development/denominational activities

- Professional Days and General Assembly in Pittsburgh on June 20-21, 2023
- Good Offices Training Aug. 2023 - *Sadie is now a Good Officer for LREDA, advocating for and supporting religious educators in need.*
- LREDA Fall Conference “Make a Joyful Noise: Celebrate, Play, Resist” in Milwaukee, WI, Oct 10-15, 2022
- Monthly “Collegial Conversations” on Zoom facilitated by CB Beal
- Monthly regional and seasonal gatherings for local religious educators
- Attending Deeper Joy - youth ministry Zoom conversation with UUA ministry consultant Jennica Davis-Hackett
- Elevation Retreat for Worship Planners, led by Marcia McFee, at Zephyr Point Conference Center in Lake Tahoe from May 13 to 17. *Sadie and Rev. Allison attended this inspiring training together!*
- “Faith Partnerships against Violence” Training by Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services, Inc. on May 23rd. *Sadie and Erin Scott attended the training together.*
- Ongoing reading of current materials, resources, articles, and books relating to faith formation for all ages

Childcare & Faith Formation Assistant Staff

Sam Murray, Faith Formation Assistant and Childcare Caregiver (Sept 2023- present)

Emma Goyette, Faith Formation Assistant and Childcare Caregiver (Sept 2023- present)

After facing challenges in hiring a childcare provider/faith formation assistant for the 2023-2024 year during the summer, we were fortunate to have two qualified candidates, Sam Murray and Emma Goyette, apply in September. This year, they are sharing the role, taking turns on Sunday mornings, and collaborating with volunteers, bringing a consistent and welcoming presence for our youngest church attendees.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025, we have allocated funds to employ two childcare staff members throughout the year. Hence, both Sam and Emma will be with us every Sunday! Each caregiver will work 1.5 hours on Sundays during the summer, and we have budgeted for 3 hours per Sunday during the church year. We can now provide before and after-church childcare every Sunday, and we are delighted to have Emma and Sam with us.

We extend our gratitude to our fantastic community for maintaining a supportive and gracious environment throughout the year. Thank you for being such a source of wonder and supporting one another.

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