

### An Invitation to a Faith Formation Year

As we begin a new church year, I wish to extend an open invitation to all of you. Actually, it is an invitation with many invitations within it. As we continue to build beloved community across all ages and stages of life, I invite you to explore the many ways to do so at UCE – for everything we do is faith formation, and you, the congregation, are the curriculum!

Get to know someone from a younger generation – a young adult, a youth, a child, or a middle-aged person:

- Sit next to them in worship or introduce yourself at Kinship Time
- Invite them to join an event or project you are involved in at UCE or in the area
- Sit in on one of the faith formation groups for children and youth to see and do what they are exploring
- Share a hobby or skill with them
- Invite a younger adult to join a group or team you're on, such as a book group
- Have coffee or lunch after worship together – on the lawn or at a café
- Share ideas with the Family Ministry Team about activities that all ages can do together – for fun and/or to help others
- Participate in Family Fridays – usually the first Friday evening of the month – this is for all kinds of families, not just those with little kids!

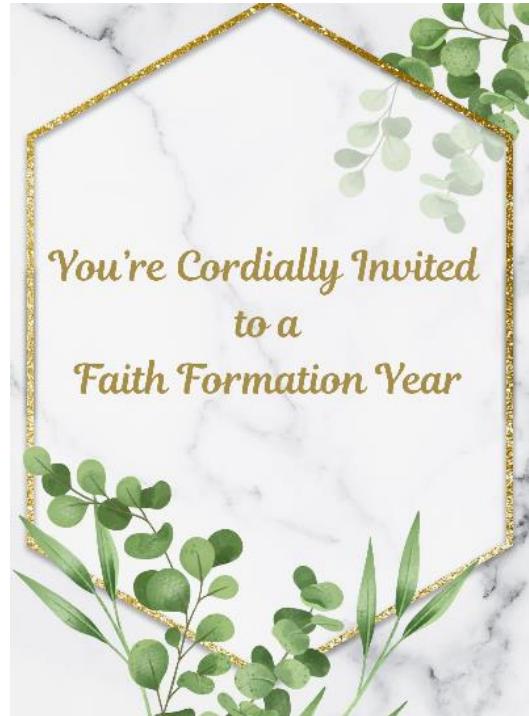
These are just a few ideas that most of us can do, and I'm sure you can think of others! For those who are interested in knowing more about faith formation this year, I invite you to participate in any of these:

- Come to the Volunteer and Parent Orientation this Saturday at 10a in room 3 to learn what the young people will be doing this year – childcare and continental breakfast provided!
- Join the Family Ministry Team on Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7p – hear what we're planning, bring your ideas
- Meeting Our Interfaith Neighbors program – for adults and youth 14+ years old to explore six faith communities in our area – see blurb below for details

And for those who would like to learn more about faith formation for our young people, here is a short synopsis:

Our Whole Lives for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders – we are joining Lake Street Church in offering this sex-ed program this fall. Email me if you would like more information.

Chalice Children (4-6 years) – will explore themes such as “who am I?” and our planet Earth by hearing and creating stories.



Heads, Hearts, and Hands (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) – we'll be exploring our new UU Values with a Jetpig Cooperative Challenge program, then world religions with *Holy Saints and Troublemakers*, and anti-racism/oppression with *We're On Our Way*.

Middle School Youth – this is a new group forming and we're so excited about it! They will be making their new space more welcoming, doing the UU Values Challenge, and exploring world religions with *D'Oh God!* by viewing episodes of the Simpsons.

High School Youth - will be continuing the coming-of-age program they started last year and will plan a wonderful worship service next April on a topic of their choice. We will also gage interest in a possible trip in 2025, which has historically been to Boston and seeing sites connected to our UU heritage. Another consideration would be going to General Assembly or on a Civil Rights tour.

As we all know, life is continually changing, and so I have an evolving [calendar](#) throughout the year that you can access any time and see what is coming up. You can also join the [Family Ministry Facebook page](#) to see what we're doing and share challenges and ideas.

I hope you accept my invitation.

In Faith,

Kathy