

BERRIEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT, June 3, 2018

Thanks to the dedication of our experienced volunteer teachers (Lisa Fuller, Ellen Higdon, Joanne Krettek, Terry Sundstrom, and David and Beth La Fleur) we had consistently high attendance in our young religious education class. We completed most of the *Moral Tales* curriculum from the UUA *Tapestry of Faith* program.

Our students have participated in many Sunday services, including the four solstice and equinox services, the “blessing of the animals” service, and a service during which they gave several readings. They have also introduced the *Change for Change* social justice fundraising program to the fellowship (led by Lisa), read several of the Stories for All Ages, started a children’s choir (led by Gretchen), sung with the All God’s Children Choir, and may attend BUUF’s first week-long summer camp this coming July (led by Joanne).

ICHAT background checks have been completed as required under the Safe Congregation Policy, and I’m working with our new DRE, Katharine Lion, to re-register BUUF on the site.

When we had good attendance, our **BUUF Potluck Brunches** were a delicious success! Topics covered included:

Doesn’t everyone deserve a chance at a good life?

A small country with big ideas to get rid of fossil fuels

This country isn’t just carbon neutral – it’s carbon negative

Hamilton vs. Madison and the birth of American partisanship

How to see past your own perspective and find truth

3 lessons of revolutionary love in a time of rage

Our youth today – how they differ from yesterday and what can we do to support them

Another successful year of **Creative Conversations** included the following topics:

Intelligence in nature

Religion, Evolution, and the Ecstasy of Self-Transcendence

A black man undercover in the alt-right

Dare to refuse the origin myths that claim who you are

How to seek truth in the era of fake news

How we can end sexual harassment at work

Defining Unitarian Universalism

Videos from the 2018 Conservative Political Action Conference

Strong Back, Soft Front, Wild Heart – Krista Tippett interview with Brene Brown

The Brainwashing of My Dad – the impact of right-wing media

I provided two Sunday services (Water Communion Ceremony and MLK Jr. weekend service) and led two teach-ins (White Privilege and LGBTQ Ally Training).

Recommendations for next year: Restore funding for RE materials, training, and support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Sarra, DRE