

DLFF Newsletter – March 2025

This is the time of year when I have many programs and projects that need wrapping up and yet I also need to start planning for the next church year. I feel torn in many directions, which is both tiring and exhilarating. The warmer weather and increased sunshine tries to lure me in a third direction, usually unsuccessfully. I find it hard to not get outside when the air is cool but the sun is warm. Those days are my joy!

This past month has been busy in faith formation. We have two adult programs that have been well-attended and will be ending: *Planning for End of Life* facilitated by Alison Issen, and *Meeting Our Interfaith Neighbors* with co-facilitators Dan Solomon, Bob Mesle, and Rev. Eileen.

Alison's program ends this week, but we have plans to continue the series next fall to focus on the financial side with guidance from the Endowment Committee. The *Meeting Our Interfaith Neighbors* will begin exploring Islam in April, followed by Ebenezer AME in May.

Over the next couple of months, we will begin planning other programs for next year. If you have a topic that you would like us to consider, you can fill out a [Program Proposal Form](#) or email me.



For our families, we had the pleasure of having Jeanne Kerl lead our Family Friday event earlier this month. She showed us how to make terrariums from milk jugs, which we then added soil to and planted vegetable and flower seeds in. Everyone got to take one home to watch them sprout and grow with the hopes of planting them in their gardens and enjoying the fruits (in this case, vegetables) of their labor.

Our next Family Friday will be April 4 when we hope to set up the new playscape equipment and mulch the area. One of our high school seniors, Enzo Wallin, has been

working hard this winter to build several structures as his Eagle Scout project. We hope to get everything installed soon so that kids can enjoy it.

Our middle school youth have also been busy. Last weekend, they had their first lock-in at UCE, with most inviting a friend to join us. We made individual pizzas, created a covenant for our time together, gave friends a tour of the building, played many games, and managed to settle down at midnight and get some sleep. I was so grateful to have Julia Adams, Aidan Carvana, and Norell Liddell there to help chaperone. The youth did a pretty good job cleaning up too, which was wonderful!

The youth are also working with Rev. Eileen, Kevin Barrow, Grey Wiviott, and Kiley Korey to plan a worship service on April 13 centered on the theme of *Joy*. We will be rehearsing some music and skits on March 30 during faith formation and worship, and hopefully it will all come together nicely. I hope you attend worship that morning to support their efforts.

Before we know it, summer will be here with new adventures, such as the UCE Campout June 6-8 at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park. Several of us have reserved [tent sites](#) #317-319 as a sort of base camp. You can register for a site [here](#). If camping isn't your thing, you could stay next door at the [IL Beach Hotel](#). And for those who simply prefer their own bed at home, you can join us at any time for a hike, campfire, or hanging out at the beach. It will be a fun weekend to relax and enjoy each other's company!

In Faith,

Kathy