

## REPORT ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Re-Emerging ... 2019

In January, Pastors Lori and Lindsey met with parents of youth to ask their dreams for re-emerging a youth ministry program. I met with their youth. The dreams were remarkably similar!

Then the re-emergence began!

We used Mark DeVries book, **SUSTAINABLE YOUTH MINISTRY** as our guide for beginning the task of re-emerging our youth ministry.

A leadership team of four **advisors, an interim youth director** and a **music coordinator** was recruited with job descriptions and certified with Safe Gatherings. **A Youth Ministry Team** was recruited to be supportive of the Advisors, help with special programs and events and promote youth ministry throughout the congregation.

Youth ministries became its own committee, giving invigorating attention to each group – family and children's ministries and youth ministries.

We developed a mission statement:

**“Providing a fun, safe, exciting, Spirit-filled opportunity for faith formation”**

United Methodist curriculum was researched and a 2019-2020 events calendar was developed and published.

Later, in January, eleven youth descended on the Plaza Shopping Mall for a cell-phone scavenger hunt. In February we dressed up for an Oscar night and watched the nominated animated shorts. Meanwhile, members of this congregation re-emerged the Blue Room – the Youth Room. The Foundation gifted us with new carpet and 14 youth signed the beam, as Pastor Lori led us in a blessing of the newly emerged Youth Room.

Our youth led the Palm Processional and our Sierra Service Project youth served us breakfast.

Five of our youth joined the church on Pentecost culminating a nine month Confirmation Class.

After celebrating graduates and in-coming sixth graders, we sent 7 youth to Camp Lodestar and 4 to Sierra Service Project. This all supported by this congregation's generous giving to campership funds and organizing and driving youth to camp and Smith River.

We began this fall, a little wet behind the ears, with our Kick Off pool party. After discussion with Christ Church, we included their 4 youth in our youth ministry.

Then got to know each other better with an afternoon focusing on “Friends” and labels we often put on each other – emphasizing the most important label – a child of God.

We learned how our church is of service to our community. John Creager and Jennie Hartman came and talked to us about Safe Parking and how we can “pay it forward”, even as teenagers.

Earlier this month our topic was immigration and “the Law of the Land or the Law of Love”. A representative from VIDAS was our guest speaker.

And just for fun – we hosted the Creepy Corner at the Pumpkin Party.

Our new Youth Ministry Directory includes youth from 14 different schools! We average 11 youth ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade through senior in high school.

Our goals for 2020-2021 are

- to continue building a sustainable youth ministry
- provide more opportunities for youth faith development
- equip our leaders of youth
- develop some youth leadership in the greater church

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going...*

*That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:*

*You spread God's love to everyone, you want to Pass It On!*

Enthusiastically Submitted,

Su Rood Cox

**Interim Youth Director**

Carolyn Derr

Lisa Brazie-Barker

Lynne Calvert

Mark Sawdon

Darlene Garza

**Advisor**

**Advisor**

**Advisor**

**Advisor**

**Music Co-ordinator**

**Youth Ministry Team:**

Sonda Anderson, Lisa Brazie-Barker, Lynne Calvert, Anne Colby (Christ Church), Robin Coolidge (Christ Church), Carolyn Derr, Margo Hoagland (Christ Church), April Nichols, Paul O'Rear (SSP Liaison), Mark Sawdon, Charlene Simons