

2025 Family Faith Formation Report to the Congregation

Religious Education – Children and Youth

Our Religious Education (RE) Year runs from the 3rd Sunday in September to the 3rd Sunday in May. We were scheduled to meet a total of 17 times for the 2025-26 year. There was no summer programming in '25. This report will cover the end of the 2024-25 RE year and the 2025-26 RE year up to Feb. 15.

The '24-25 RE year concluded with our Youth Service and Favorite Foods Potluck. Our Youth spent about 8 weeks, both in class and at home, preparing a service themed around Joy. Melody Ellert stepped down from her role as co-chair of the committee in May '25.

The 25-26 RE year began on the third Sunday in September. The committee noted in our August start-up meeting that area schools are starting in the first half of August, and we should work toward adjusting our schedule to accommodate our families in the future. The committee also decided to change the ages for our classes to better accommodate our children and youths. Our Elementary Class is now grades K-3 and our Youth Class is grades 4-10. This helps to relieve the issue we had in 24-25 where only one student was enrolled for the Youth Class. Parents and the youth in question do have the ultimate discretion in which class their children attend.

RE has met 9 times from September 21 to February 15. We assume we will meet a total of 14 times from September to May. There were 17 total RE Sundays for the 25-26 year. 3 Sundays have intergenerational programming, including the Youth Service scheduled for May 17.

Our classes are attended by an average of 5 children and youths. Our class time focuses on kinetic play, arts and crafts, and discussion. Our Elementary Class has used our Worship themes to help guide our lessons; our Youth Class has gone over Creation Myths from around the world this year. Our Youth Class will primarily focus on planning the Youth Service from April to May 3rd.

In December '25, the Congregation hired someone to be in the nursery on a weekly basis. This seems to be popular with our local toddlers, preschoolers, and their parents.

Looking to the future, RE has a Summer program on select Sundays in 2026. It will be play-based, values-based, nature-based, and probably outside. More information about this will come out in late April or early May. Registration for the 26-27 RE year will be open in late July. We plan to keep a similar class structure to what we are currently providing.

RE is only possible because of the time, talent, and dedication of our volunteers. Olivia Vincent is the teacher for the Elementary class. She currently plans two classes a month for our children. She has our gratitude. Robin Valdizon and Nastassia Snaden are the teachers in the Youth class. We are grateful for the volunteers who have smaller commitments, who help out occasionally, and who help keep our classrooms safe.

Submitted by Nastassia Snaden, Family Faith Formation–Children's and Youth's Religious Education Chair.