

Caregivers and Kiddos – 2020-21 Annual Report

Group Lay Leaders: Charlene Mangi and Arika Lycan

We are a fellowship group of the UUAA congregation for the parents, guardians or other caregivers of young children! We support each other and our kids through social and spiritual activities, including in-person get togethers for parents and kids, as well as online events.

Due to COVID19, Caregivers and Kiddos paused in-person activities in March 2020. We re-started online engagement in May 2020, keeping in touch over email and providing mutual support. In August we began assessing comfort in small, masked outdoor groups. Based on group input in September 2020 we began a What'sApp thread, dedicated to planning optional outdoor playdates.

By The Numbers- During COVID:

- **10+ in-person play gatherings** were held
- **3 virtual playdates** were held online thru Zoom
- **10+ Babies & Bedtimes online story sessions** were held, using pre-recorded stories via UUAA YouTube Channel

Group Membership: Caregivers and Kiddos has 7 engaged group members (and their kids!) and has 2-4 more sporadically engaged members as well.

UUAA Core Values: Caregivers and Kiddos touches all aspects of UUAA's core values in some capacity, but there are several we are focused on: Community, Stewardship, and Culture.

Community: Parenting a young child can be isolating and challenging, especially in COVID-times. Caregivers and Kiddos offers an opportunity for caregivers to connect, forming an inter-UUAA community of folks with very similar joys and sorrows. Caregivers and Kiddos also offers an opportunity for community-building for youth in our group, and helps establish ties to the UUAA community before formal SGD programming begins.

Stewardship: Many of our activities are outdoors, and there is a natural element of environmental stewardship present in teaching children to enjoy nature, and stepping lightly on each trail.

Culture: Caregivers and Kiddos helps young kids (and their adults) to establish connections to each other within the UUAA congregation, and therefore to UU culture. It is often difficult for caregivers with young kiddos to make it to services at appointed times, and paying attention/having space for spiritual nourishment can be hard. By joining in community, we are fostering a connection to UUAA that will hopefully remain as kids grow and can connect in more ways to UUism.

Future and 20/50 Vision: In the future, Caregivers and Kiddos hopes to develop additional lay leaders who can develop further structure for long-term group sustainability. The nature of parenting a young kid is that they're not always young! Our group is embodying the 20/50 Vision most through Radical Welcome. In 2020 we changed our group name from "Mothers and Others" to Caregivers and Kiddos, to be more inclusive of the different types of caregivers in our community (Dads, Grandparents, Non-binary folks). In addition, we realize that connecting and building meaningful relationships is life-giving and essential for well-being! This group ensures that caregivers and their young children feel welcome and creates space for them at UUAA, outside of Sunday service/preschool.