

2024 Youth Ministry Annual Report

Youth Programming: As you know, we have two different youth groups—a Younger Youth Group and a Teen Youth Group. The health and vitality of these groups pretty much flipped upside down in 2024. Whereas there used to be a bunch of younger kids who would come to our Second Sunday Evening of the Month evening meetings, that group has dwindled significantly. A large part of the transition is because a bunch of the kids graduated into the older group. I've been in touch with parents of the remaining younger kids several times and they all assure me that we're doing exactly what they want us to do, and that the only reason they are not in attendance more both on Sunday mornings and for the monthly Youth Meeting is because of their hectic schedules. It's really that simple. So Sheryl Rowe and I will keep trying to gather the little ones for meetings and programs, but right now it's kind of hit or miss and the numbers are low.

The teen group though is thriving! We have between 10 – 15 kids of our own involved pretty regularly in our first Sunday of the Month Sunday evening meetings, AND we've joined forces with Memorial UCC in Fitchburg. Combined we have about 25, and Orchard Ridge UCC and Middleton UCC and Plymouth UCC have all heard about this and want to join us as well. So we've got a pretty vital thing blossoming for the older youth and I'm very excited about that.

Our older group took a service trip last June to Nashville, TN and that was a fantastic experience. We are not yet sure where we'll go in 2025 but will be getting that on the calendar soon.

We also are doing a joint confirmation class this year with Memorial UCC in Fitchburg. Each of our churches has 3 youth involved in the program.