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News From Religious Education.

What a bittersweet time the end of the church year is. It is such a relief to take a break after the culmination of our school year commitments. But it is sad to know that many of our young people are leaving for college and it may be a long time before we see some of them again. But, summer in Buffalo is a beautiful thing and Elmwood Village certainly comes alive.

Summer is such a strange time for Unitarian Universalists. Perhaps it is a legacy of many of our church leaders being academics, but we tend to follow the academic year. Even when programming has been available at church for children participation has been sparse. But it is a long time between May and September. That is a full quarter of the year; June, July, August plus another almost half month when you count the end of May and the beginning of September.

A full season is a long time to be away from community. So this year we will try a few new things. We will try to have someone at church to welcome new families every week. And I'll let you know when special events are happening that may have real appeal for children and youth. We will also have some community field trips and picnics over the summer; Informal opportunities to come together so that the kids can see each other and enjoy the direct experience of wonder that nature provides. Please be sure to join the UUCB RE Facebook page. As we set them up each event will be posted there.

For starters, The Buffalo Pride Parade is on June 3. This is a family event! Whether you or your children are Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Bisexual, Pansexual, Asexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, or just prefer to leave labels out of the conversation, we can attend in support of the many people who are still fighting for the right to love whomever they will. This is a first principle issue; the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I was concerned about how small our marching contingent was last compared to the size of our congregation until I realized that we had people peppered all through the parade in various organizations. I would love it if everyone who was participating could share on the Facebook event page from UUCB Pride Parade so that we get a stronger sense of how many of you do come out to support this important event. For those who wish to join me, I plan to have sign making material available at the church on June 3 so that kids can make signs to carry with their families.

In addition on June 10 there will be a Flower Communion. This is one of the most relevant rituals of our faith, but sadly our children are too often on to summer activities and rarely get to experience it at UUCB. This is a lovely event for children and adults. In fact the ritual was designed with children in mind. You can read more about it's history here: <http://www.uua.org/documents/zottolireginald/flowercommunion.pdf>.

I hope to have opportunities to speak with all of you this summer about what you desire in your RE program. Give me a call to set up a time to talk about the hopes your family brings.

