

YRUU Annual Report 2015-2016
Report by Julie Dybdahl, YRUU Coordinator

YRUU's mission is to provide a spiritual home for our youth, where we

- learn about and practice our UU principles
- learn about ethics, values, and healthy personal relationships
- build a safe and welcoming social community
- encourage leadership development
- worship together

Thirty-five 10th-12th graders registered for YRUU this year; approximately 20-25 attend any given Sunday. Three adults volunteered as advisors: Laurin Tuxbury-Elliott, Tom Goodson, and Jon Thomas-Palmer.

Our Congregation's core values of Spiritual Life and Community are at the center of all we do. We begin and end each class with ritual, creating sacred space. At social events, our Worship Coordinator leads group worship services. We've worked hard this year to build a strong, safe, accepting community in YRUU. Team-building exercises, social gatherings, annual ski trip, group projects, and intense class discussions build and strengthen our community.

Our YRUU honors other core values through responsible stewardship, taking care to clean up after our overnights. Whenever possible we use china and silverware, rather than wasteful paper products. YRUU added to our Congregation's shared culture through the services they created and delivered on March 20.

Highlights of the year:

- Successfully integrated many new members
- Participated in the Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention walk
- Fund-raised through Apple Dumpling sales and purchased gifts for needy children
- Learned life skills through "Adulthood 101" curriculum
- Sent care packages to last year's YRUU seniors
- Five sessions of Our Whole Life (OWL) curriculum
- Very successful ski trip
- Five drop-in summer chalice circles

Future plans include a summer service trip to repair and renovate houses in Appalachia; 25 people will go in July 2016.

We've had a very good year, but YRUU could do so much more if we had more adult volunteers. Consider being a YRUU advisor - it will change your life.