

GA Talks: Multigenerational Worship and Community Ministry

Thursday, June 25 | 4:15pm-5:30pm US/Eastern (1:15 – 2:30PM PDT)

Young Adults @ GA

Come and participate in GA Talks! GA Talks, TED-style presentation designed to entertain, educate and inform, provide an opportunity to listen to stories and wisdom from fellow Unitarian Universalists. Today's speakers are Rev. Christina Leone Tracy and Lincoln Statler. Hosted by Kenny Wiley and the Young Adults @GA community.

Rev. Christina Leone Tracy | Lincoln W. Statler | Kenny Wiley

Experimenting with engaging with presenter via Twitter during the presentation.

Rev. Christina Leone Tracy:

Re-scheduled meetings to be more inclusive, more multi-generation friendly. Used to have 2 services, 9 and 11. Youth did not come into meetings, went straight to "their" room in the annex. Moved 11am session to 11:10, used middle hour for RE for everyone, including youth and adults. Youth stayed in 9am session. Children sent to child care. Allowed adults to engage in RE classes without additional travel or needing to arrange for mid-week child care.

Lots of intentional work to break down assumptions about what different generations knew or wanted.

Question: What did you do with social hour?

Answer: Coffee hour a zoo because narthex is small, big congregation. People can go to coffee hour instead of middle hour offering if they want. Reduced pressure on narthex.

Question: Size?

Answer: 150-200 adults per meeting on Sunday. About 150-200 registered RE children/youth, avg attendance 80-100.

Question: How to make services interesting for youth?

Answer: Became accustomed to adult worship growing up. Not all things can be for kids, need to help them become part of the community. Don't dumb down or make silly. At 11, capable of sitting still and listening to hard things for 30 minutes.