

July 26, 2009

Re: **6th grade Human Sexuality program**

Dear parents and guardians of CCC sixth graders,

CCC's "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) program for the sixth grade youth will be held during the fall. This program, created jointly by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Church, encompasses human sexuality, sexual orientation, family relationships, interpersonal communication, informed decision-making, handling peer pressure, and a bit of conflict-resolution, all presented in the context of our Christian faith. The goal is to go beyond the public school Sex Ed programs, help our youth be comfortable and deal positively with the changes that they will experience as they enter adolescence, and help them effectively handle the social pressures they may encounter. The program tries to build the youth's sense of self-worth and their trust in themselves. It actively encourages family discussion of the lessons and related material, recognizing that each child's family is his or her best source of information and moral values.

We sincerely hope that all prospective parents and guardians will join us from **6 to 8:15 PM on Sunday, September 20**, for an **informational meeting** about the "Our Whole Lives" program for the sixth grade youth. (You do not have to be CCC members.) While we meet, the 6th graders will join the other CCC middle schoolers for supper and Fun Night activities. Parents should bring a sandwich (or whatever) for supper. We'll furnish drinks and chips.

After the informational meeting, parents or guardians will have only a week to decide whether their children will participate in the OWL classes, because **OWL will begin on September 27 with a commitment meeting that both parents and youth are required to attend**. This meeting will also be from **6 to 8:15 PM** and will include pizza for supper. During that meeting, you will be asked to sign a **Parent Commitment Form**, giving your **permission** for your child to participate in the OWL program. You will be asked to support OWL by arranging for your child to attend all meetings and by participating in weekly discussions of the material with your child and encouraging your child to do the required readings in the text. You will be asked to **pay for the parents' and children's books** that you receive, for which the estimated cost is **\$30** for each set (waived if it presents a financial burden — speak with Jim Conklin). If you already have the books, you do not need to buy another set.

OWL for 6th graders will continue through December 6, according to the schedule below (subject to modification at the commitment meeting). After that, the sixth graders will be invited to join the other middle school youth in their ongoing Sunday evening program.

Because of the "wake-over" for middle school youth on Friday, October 16 and the following Saturday morning, there will be no OWL activity on October 18 unless one of the other Sundays planned doesn't work out for OWL and we need that as a make-up session.

For more information, please contact Jim Conklin, 301-587-6210.

Schedule for the 2008 6th grade OWL program, all meetings 6:00 - 8:00 PM:

September 20, informational meeting for parents; non-OWL activities for the youth.

September 27, commitment meeting. Parents MUST participate with their children!

Session 1. October 4

Session 2. October 11

Session 3. October 25

Session 4. November 1

Session 5. November 8

Session 6. November 15

Session 7. November 22

Session 8. December 6

Yours in Christ,

The Sixth Grade OWL leaders