



## Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

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Evan Keely	<i>Interim Senior Minister</i>
Susan Davison Archer	<i>Minister of Religious Education</i>
Heather Janules	<i>Associate Minister and Minister for Pastoral Care</i>
Henry Sgrecci	<i>Director of Music</i>
Vanessa Steck	<i>Coordinator of Youth Ministry</i>

August 11, 2011

Dear Parents of Senior High Youth,

I am really pleased to announce that I will be the new Youth Coordinator, beginning in September. Between teaching 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades at Cedar Lane I have met most of the youth in Senior High already and I have enjoyed them completely. I am really honored to be working with them this year.

SHYG will be changing a bit: I have included a calendar of our events and some information on our year! In order to make this program work, I will definitely need some support from our great parents. Please contact me if you are willing to help out: the first opportunity will be Tockwogh! I will also have sign up sheets at our opening picnic.

If you have questions, I can be reached at church, extension 205, or [vsteck@cedarlane.org](mailto:vsteck@cedarlane.org) or [vsteck@gmail.com](mailto:vsteck@gmail.com).

This year we will utilize Connection Groups (CGs), which will be assigned at our Tockwogh Retreat. Each CG will work together to plan activities and support one another. Kids who don't go to Tockwogh will still be assigned a group, and at each activity we will have CG check in times.

1. Activities will take place monthly and some of them I will plan. Those planned by CGs will be discussed with me so I can make sure it's a workable plan. Kids will need to decide things like cost, how to get everyone involved, etc.
2. At every activity/hang out there will be a ten minute CG check in time.
3. The overarching theme of the year is Taking Care of Each Other. This is one of the reasons to do Connection Groups, so that they can get used to taking care of each other in a different way.
4. We'll try to do a "meeting" portion of SHYG before the activity portion of our monthly get-togethers so that there is a place to discuss logistics, air grievances, discuss what is and isn't working. These will not be open to parents.
5. There will be a couple of picnics throughout the year— one at the beginning, and one at the end—with parents AND kids so that parents have a chance to talk to one another and to me. IF we need to hold a "meeting" portion of this we can.

On Sunday mornings that RE is in session, 10–12<sup>th</sup> graders will have class from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. I have developed a new curriculum called "Seeing The World" for the fall. In the spring, 11–12<sup>th</sup> graders may do "OWL" part 2, OR join the 10<sup>th</sup> graders for class (curriculum TBA).

Once again, thank you so much for your support, and I look forward to a great year!

In peace,

Vanessa Steck