Not for Ourselves Alone: Building an Inclusive Future

First Universalist Church Capital Campaign

SUZY MESSEROLE

"A year and a half ago, my daughter suffered a bad concussion. My wife and I were trying to act calm around our daughter, but we were, in fact, extremely scared. When I called Lauren at church to tell her that I was not able to teach RE that weekend, and told her what was going on, she asked if she could include our family in the Cycle of Life. I said yes. And I am so glad I did. The support was immediate. A parent from church who had been through the same thing instantly reached out. Here was someone who knew what we were experiencing and was offering unconditional support for whatever we needed. And then the cards started arriving. People from church, some who knew and many who didn't know our daughter, were sending their thoughts of healing and love. For a kid who wasn't allowed any reading or physical activity or screens of any kind—getting cards in the mail was a moment of excitement in an otherwise dull existence. But I think what meant the most to me was having a place every Sunday where people would check in about how we all were doing. Learning to receive and accepting the help and support and love being offered, not only helped me and my family through a difficult time, but it changed my relationship to First Universalist. This church went from being a place of worship to a place of belonging."