

Christian Education Opportunities

Church School begins on September 11 (the first Sunday after Labor Day) and ends in May on Sunday, May 20, 2012. Classes are available from Toddlers & Twos through Adults from 10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. each Sunday.

Adult Education As an adult, maybe you've wondered what Sunday School means for you. Maybe you've heard people talking about Christian Formation, and are wondering what that means. Maybe you're wondering where Christian Education has gone. We have the answer for you, and it includes two classes on Sunday morning (usually at 10:00 a.m.). During Advent we will only offer one class. "From Longing to Receiving" will lead participants through the Old Testament and the Gospel lectionary texts for four weeks, tracing important Advent themes of longing for God's help, anticipating God's presence among us, recognizing God's work among us, and receiving God's new gifts to us.

The Sundays after Epiphany, two tracks offer you two different ways of growing and shaping your life and faith in ways that draw you closer to God and into community with others. The first track offers you both information and a chance to share your concerns and perhaps work out some answers to perplexing issues of faith, life and culture. The **Faith and Life Class** meets each week to discuss the tough issues confronting us as we grow in grace. Whether you're a parent wondering how to protect your kids from the challenges of an on-line life, an adult trying to cope with the issues of financial insecurity, someone trying to plan for end of life and health care issues (for yourself or your loved ones), or a concerned citizen puzzling out your response to the front page news, then this class offers something for you. It is designed with two or three weeks on a single topic, but you can come anytime. The classes are led by members and friends of the congregation who have some expertise in the area. They will invite you to explore the issue and relate it to your personal faith. In addition they'll give you some tools and guidelines to help you grow in your faith and life.

Our second track, the **Opening the Word Class**, does exactly that. One of the pastors will help you discover or rediscover what the Bible says, and invite you on a journey to grow and shape your faith and life in ways that take that book seriously as God's rich and changing word to you. This winter, Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson will open the Bible with you, exploring many topics. *The Bible from Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners* presents basic themes, histories, personalities and meanings of the Bible. Faith and life are formed in response to God's still speaking message, and this class invites you to listen and answer. We hope you'll join us Sundays as we form our faith and life together.

Christian Education Opportunities

Winter Calendar at Sunday Church School

November 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Advent Lesson - "From Longing to Receiving"
"Longing for God's Saving Help"
Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37
Rev. Deana Armstrong, Room D

December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Advent Lesson - "From Longing to Receiving"
"Anticipating God's Presence Among Us"
Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8
Jackie Lowery, Room D

December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Advent Lesson - "From Longing to Receiving"
"Recognizing God's Work Among Us"
Isaiah 61:1-11 & John 1:6-9, 19-28
Jonathan Miller, Room D

December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Advent Lesson - "From Longing to Receiving"
"Receiving God's New Gifts to Us"
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 & Luke 1:26-38
Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Room D

December 25 - Christmas Day
No Education Hour - Worship at 10 a.m.

January 1 - New Year's Day
No Education Hour - Worship at 9 & 11a.m.

January 8
Opening the Word- "The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "Faith and Politics"
Chris Glaros, Room C

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January 15
Opening the Word- "The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "Faith and Politics"
Chris Glaros, Room C

January 22
Opening the Word- "The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "Faith and Politics"
Chris Glaros, Room C

January 29- Annual Meeting 10 A.M. Service
No Education Hour

February 5 -
Opening the Word- "The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "Taxes and Faith"
Room D

February 12 -
Opening the Word- The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "Taxes and Faith"
Room D

February 19 -
Opening the Word- "The New Testament from Scratch"
Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Room D

Faith and Life Class - "So What If I Give Up Chocolate?"
A Look at Lenten Sacrifices



Adult Offerings

Welcome

We welcome you to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, where "God is Still Speaking." Our Adult Education Programs are planned for the entire Church School year - September through May, and the theme for this year is "**Faith and Life.**" The Adult Education Committee goal is to provide dynamic and engaging programs reflective of members' and friends' interests, and their theological and spiritual needs. We strive to provide offerings that enhance the multiple learning strategies and know that learning is intrinsic to faith development and is an essential function of our faith community at First Church.



Weekday Opportunities: Adults

Wednesday Morning Book Study: The Wednesday Morning Book study will start the winter quarter in December with a fun review of the famous book "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*" by Portsmouth, Ohio, native Barbara Robinson. It tells the story of six delinquent children surnamed Herdman. They go to church for the first time after being told that the church offers snacks. Despite protests from other church members, the Herdmans are given roles in the Sunday school's Christmas play, in which they tell the Christmas story in a nonconventional fashion. The Book Study group will select a book by Walter Brueggemann for the rest of the winter quarter. The class will meet throughout the winter on the first and third Wednesday of each month, led by Rev. Ahrens.

Annual Spring Retreat

April 20-22, 2012

The Annual Spring Retreat at Templed Hill has been a long tradition here at First Congregational Church. It is a time away from work located in an idyllic setting that promotes relaxation and renewal of mind, body and spirit. It is also a wonderful way to build long lasting relationships. Watch for more information in the church newsletter, Website, bulletin boards or contact Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education.

Adult Offerings

Adult Library

The Adult Library is located on the lower floor of the Parish House. Our books and resource materials are available for reading or check out, and include many current books. Special emphasis is placed on materials that pertain to the faith development of children and religious activities.

Upcoming Opportunities

Lenten Small Groups - Watch for more information about our Lenten Small Groups that will be hosted throughout the Franklin County area during Lent. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only grow in your faith but to meet many of your neighbors who attend First Church.

May 11-13 Walter Brueggemann Weekend

Plan now to attend this wonderful weekend of opportunities with Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. He has authored more than 58 books, hundreds of articles, and several commentaries on books of the Bible. He is also a contributor to a number of the "Living the Questions" DVD programs and is featured in the program "Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today." Dr. Brueggemann is known throughout the world for his brilliant method of combining literary and sociological modes when reading the Bible. More details will be coming in the next few months.

For more information concerning Christian Formation at First Congregational Church, visit our Web site at www.first-church.org or contact Mark S. Williams at 614.228.1741, ext 15. You can also follow with more current information by signing up with the following:



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First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Christian Formation **Adult Education Ministry**

**2011-12 Winter Quarter Offerings
November 27, 2011 ~ February 19, 2012**

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