

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.

Children's Ministry at First Church invites your children to join us in a loving Christian community where they will find opportunities to learn and grow in their faith.

Nursery childcare is available in the Infant Room (birth to walking) and the Toddler Room (walking steadily until age 3). There are four paid childcare providers and volunteers scheduled for the busiest times.

Toddlers & Twos Class offers age-appropriate lessons focusing on sharing, kindness, community and emphasizing that God loves them. Teacher actions show that church is a safe and fun place to be.

Preschool Class offers the perfect environment for this age. "Routine and ritual are important at this age. Motor skills are improving and these little ones are able to accomplish tasks. Fertile and creative imagination is taking hold and young children have an innate sense of awe and wonder about their surroundings."

Kindergarten/First Grade Class thrives at First Church. "The ability to reason and to consider other points of view has begun. Their thinking is quite 'rule-bound' where everything is either right or wrong and the word fair means equal. Linking Bible stories with real life experiences is vital for these developing disciples."

Second/Third Grade Class regularly uses the Bible in the classroom. "Reading skills still vary widely and it is important to offer variety when engaging with the Bible. Peer group interest is increasing at this age and being a part of the group is very important. Learners are beginning to think abstractly. This age is often skeptical. They need opportunities to begin developing their own belief systems."

Fourth/Fifth Grade Class works on the larger world. "Awareness of a larger world is increasing, as are feelings about fair play and justice. Learners at this age need opportunities to both reflect on justice issues as well as to engage directly and indirectly in the worldwide ministry of the church. They are beginning to break away from parental ties and form important ties with peers. They want to 'look good' and be part of the group."

Middle School Class (grades 6 - 8), have longer attention spans, which allow them to be more self-directed in their learning. Friendships are important, and they are beginning to recognize a variety of viewpoints. Sessions provide opportunities for active exploration of Bible stories and encourage reading and writing skills. Varied activities meet the needs of different learning styles, and service projects help encourage a connection to the wider community.

(Quotes are from Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.)

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High School Class (grades 9 - 12) are eager to explore beliefs and engage issues of life and justice. They are supported and challenged as they live with questions, explore commitments and make key choices about their futures. Session resources put the Bible in context. Activities promote the development of leadership skills and serving in the local and global ministry of the church.

Season of Advent/ Epiphany

In this Season of Advent our voices join with people of faith of long ago in words of longing, words of comfort, and words of hope for lives restored; and we wait expectantly. This blue time of waiting and reflection give way to the white/gold of Christmas, to words of joy, and a call to all creation to make a joyful noise to God. These seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany conclude with divine words of instruction to listen to the wisdom of the Christ.

November 27- 1st Sunday of Advent

Church School - Longing

Isaiah 64:1-9

Middle School Youth Group 6--7:30 pm

December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Church School - Words of comfort

Isaiah 40:1-11

Confirmation Class 12:30-3 pm

Sonreir -High School Youth Group 6-7:30 pm

December 11- 3rd Sunday of Advent

Church School - Hope Restored

Psalms 126

Congregational Dinner and Children's Christmas Play

6-7:30 pm Parish Hall

December 18- 4th Sunday of Advent

Church School - God With Us

Luke 1:26-38

Lessons and Carols Service 4 pm

December 22- High & Middle School Youth Groups

Mission project for BOBS 9 A.M.-12 noon Parish Hall

Youth Christmas Party

December 24- Christmas Eve Services

Pageant - 7:30 P. M. Candlelight - 11 P. M.

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December 25th Christmas Sunday - 10 A. M. Service
Church School - No Education Hour

January 1 - New Year's Day

Church School - No Education Hour

January 8- The Baptism of Christ Sunday

Church School - New Beginnings

Mark 1:4-11

Confirmation Class 12:30-2 pm

Sonreir - High School Youth Group 6-9 pm

January 15

Church School - Called and Recalled

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Sonreir - High School Youth Group 6-7:30 pm

Middle School Youth Group 6-7:30 pm

January 22

Church School - Moving Forward

Mark 1:14-20

Sonreir - High School Youth Group 6-9 pm

January 29 - Annual Meeting 10 A.M. Service

Church School - No Education Hour

Confirmation Class 12:30-2 pm

Sonreir - High School Youth Group 6-7:30 pm

Middle School Youth Group 6-7:30 pm

February 4 - Practice for Youth Sunday

TBA

February 5 - Youth Sunday

Church School - Sustaining Ministry

Mark 1:29-39

February 12 -

Church School - Healing Presence

Mark 1:40-45

Confirmation Class 12:30-2 pm

February 19

Church School - Thin Places

Mark 9:2-9



Children and Youth

Welcome

We welcome you to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, where "God is Still Speaking." Our Education Programs are planned for the entire Church School year - September through May and the theme for this year is "Faith and Life." The 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.

Winter Quarter Sunday Mornings Mission Project



The Children and Youth of First Church will work with the Washington Gladden Community House afterschool program as part of our local mission project during the Winter Quarter. We will kick off our project on January 8th and will end on February 19th. Please watch the church website, bulletin announcements, newsletter and emails on how you can work with our children and youth with the children of Franklinton and the Gladden Community House.

Children and Youth

Children and Worship At First Congregational Church, UCC, children are welcome to participate in any of our services. The early service at 9 a.m. is a casual, family-centered service that encourages children to participate in all aspects of worship. The 11 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary. It includes a children's message and an opportunity to witness baptisms. All children are invited to participate in communion.

Worship Connections Children, preschool through second grade, are invited to the Children's Library during the 11 a.m. worship service for a special time together. They may make crafts, hear special guests or check books out. The children will return to worship where they have an opportunity to participate in rest of the service.

Alma Keeler Children's Library On the 2nd Floor of the Education Wing you will find a wonderful Children's Library. It was a gift from a long-time member, Alma Keeler. It receives a yearly allocation for the purchase of new books and furnishings. Books can be checked out by following the procedure outlined on the table. Books are on loan for one week, and should be returned to the Children's Library and placed in the "Return Book" box.



Youth Mission Trip June 10-15, 2012

Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR) is a faith-based network of urban service-learning programs that expose, educate, challenge and motivate participants to respond to the issues and concerns facing an increasingly urban world.

For more information concerning Christian Education at First Congregational Church, visit our Web site at www.first-church.org or contact Mark S. Williams at 614.228.1741, ext 15.

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First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Christian Education *Children and Youth Ministry*

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

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