

**Church of Christ Congregational, Millis
2009-2010
Parent Handbook**



United Church of Christ
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Overview

Welcome to our Sunday school program at Church of Christ Congregation in Millis. Our program includes children in the nursery through eighth grade. We provide Christian education during the 10:00am Sunday morning worship service. The purpose of our Sunday school program is to teach all our children about God's great love for them. This great love is revealed over and over in the greatest book ever written...The Bible!

On regular Sundays, students begin worship with their family in the sanctuary. During the service, the children are called forward to sit in the front of the sanctuary for a Children's Message. This is a time in the service when the pastor shares a story with the children. The story is often tied to the adult sermon. After the Children's Message, the children leave the sanctuary and are escorted by a teacher to their classes.

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month), students are invited to attend worship with the family in the sanctuary, or they can head directly to Sunday school for a group lesson.

We ask that parents/guardians pick up their children immediately following service.

Registration

We require that all children be registered for the Sunday school year. The registration form will capture important information for the Superintendent and teaching staff, including allergies! Forms are available in the Sunday school church office. Please include your e-mail address as we are using this communication vehicle on a regular basis to update families on our upcoming programs and activities.

Curriculum

We use ***PowerXpress by Cokesbury*** as our curriculum guide for this exciting faith journey!!!! With PowerXpress, Cokesbury's rotation format curriculum, children will experience the Bible story in many different ways. Teachers communicate the Bible story to children using complete lesson plans for these various workshops:

- Art
- Games
- Music/Movement
- Science
- Storytelling

In a rotational setting, the same Bible story or theme is taught for several weeks. Each week, learners rotate with a different workshop teacher. The story remains the same, but the children encounter it in different ways in each workshop. Repetition is an

important part of the rotation approach. The more different ways children explore a story or concept, the more it is reinforced in their memories. The variety of experiences keeps interest high throughout each unit, and allows learners to access the curriculum as well through these modalities.

Class Information

Nursery:

Nursery care is available for children up to three years old. Parents are asked to fill out a nursery registration form that is kept on file in the Sunday school office. Safety of our youngest attendees is our top priority and we request that parents sign their children in and sign out of the nursery.

Class assignments:

Our Sunday school classes are arranged by the following grade levels:

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten/1st Grade
- 2nd/3rd Grade
- 4th-6th Grade
- 7th/8th Grade: this class meets twice a month - see the Superintendent for the schedule. When class is not in session, we encourage the youth to attend worship with their family.

Attendance

Our teaching staff is committed to providing each child with a meaningful Christian Education. Each team member dedicates a significant amount of time in preparing each lesson, and to support this effort, we ask parents to make a concerted effort to regularly bring their child to church.

Stewardship

The Bible teaches us that every good thing is a gift from God - and that God trusts us to take care of all we have and all we are. It is an attitude of respect and responsibility that affects every area of life. It is whole-life stewardship. Sunday school children learn the meaning of stewardship and commitment in their classes. They will learn to become good stewards of their time, talent and treasures. Our goal is to give them a strong foundation for a lifetime of honoring God. We want to help the children understand that they have an important part in furthering the ministry of the church and in taking care of God's world.

Stewardship can be expressed in many ways: participating in worship, making monetary offerings, contributing one's talent or time, sharing our goods with those in need, such as donating to the Millis Ecumenical Food pantry. Everyone has different gifts to offer.

Some specific ways our children can be stewards include: contributing weekly to the offering our

Sunday school teachers collect, and donating to the Food Pantry on Communion Sundays.

Snack Policy

Snack is provided to the children. If your child has an allergy, feel free to send in your own snack. We especially appreciate any peanut-free snack donations. They can be given to the Superintendent.

Church Conduct

At the beginning of each school year, teachers will go over appropriate behavior in the classroom and in the sanctuary and discuss the importance of honoring this special building. We ask that parents reinforce our expectations for their child's conduct at church.

Should a behavior problem arise teachers have been instructed to address the issue with the child directly. If necessary, the child's parent(s) will be located in the sanctuary.

Communication

The church publishes a monthly newsletter called The Spire. It is mailed to all members and friends of the congregation. If you are not currently receiving one, please call the office. In addition, you can check out our Sunday school newsletter on the bulletin board or sign up to have it emailed to you.

Program Highlights

Bibles

In the fall of third grade, students will receive a Bible in worship. Bibles are presented to the students by their "Bible Buddy". Bible Buddies is a program offered by the Christian Education committee. Its purpose is to foster intergenerational connections within the church and to share the Word of God in a more personal manner. The Bible Buddy makes a donation to buy a third grader a Bible and personalizes the Bible by either writing a short letter about why the Bible is important to him/her, placing a ribbon in a favorite passage, or writing a short prayer. Our current selection is the NIV Adventure Bible.

If you are in need of a Bible for your home, we have a collection of children's Bibles and many other books about faith in the library. These books are available for children and their families to borrow. Take some time to browse through our collection and see which Bible suits your needs.

Communion

Our third grade students participate in a 5 week Sacrament curriculum during the season of Lent. We feel this 5 week program fully prepares our students to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. After completion of this class, students are recognized during a special service.

Confirmation

The year long confirmation class gathers to learn and discuss the significance of the life of faith. Delving into scripture, Christian tradition and their own experience, young people gain greater understanding of the faith journey and make individual decisions about the next step on that path. Once they complete the class, ninth graders may choose to confirm the vows made on their behalf at the time of their baptism. The service of confirmation usually occurs each May.

Special Events

We are proud to offer a variety of educational and fellowship oriented programs to our children, such as:

- Registration Rally
- Bible Presentation Sunday
- 3rd Grade Sacrament Education
- Advent Celebration
- Christmas Program
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Boy & Girl Scout Sunday
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Children's Sunday
- Vacation Bible School
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Pets

Youth Opportunities:

- Youth Fellowship (Grades 4-6 and 7-12)
- Hand Bell Choir (Intergenerational, ages 10 and older)
- Kids Singing Group (Grades 3-12)
- Liturgical Dance (Grades 3-12)



Safe Church Policy

The Church of Christ, Millis, is committed to making our church a safe and secure place where people of all ages can come together for worship, study, and service in the name of Jesus Christ. The Christian Education committee has outlined all the policies and procedures to ensure a worship and work community in which members, friends, staff, and volunteers can worship and work together in an atmosphere free of all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Please feel free to pickup a copy of our Safe Church Policy in the Church office for more detailed information.

Classroom Volunteers

A key piece of our Safe Church policy is requiring two adults in every classroom. In our classrooms, teachers will be accompanied each week with another teacher or a “room” parent volunteer. E-mail reminders will be sent to each volunteer prior to their scheduled date. We ask that you work with another teacher or the Superintendent to find a substitute if you are unable to make your assigned date in the classroom.

Most of all!

The Christian Education Committee is thrilled to be able to offer such wonderful events and programs to help our children explore and learn about God's love.

“And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” Luke 2:40

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