

## The Sunday Morning Experience

Religious Education is offered at 9:00AM and 10:45 AM on Sundays, *simultaneous with the adult worship service*. It is open to children from ages 18 months to 8th grade, although 8<sup>th</sup> grade meets on Sunday nights at 6:30 pm.

Your child will not always head for his or her classroom for an hour of instruction. Instead we offer a variety of worship experiences in order to develop a strong fellowship community. Signs in the lobby indicate the kind of service we are having on a particular day, with details of where you and children should go. Our alternate worship experiences include:

**Family Worship:** Children gather with adults in the sanctuary for the first 15 minutes of the service. Then, the entire congregation sings as the children proceed to their classrooms.

**Intergenerational services:** Families gather in the sanctuary to worship together. These services center on a “child friendly” theme.

**Children’s Worship:** Children meet with their classmates and teachers in Fellowship Hall for a brief child-centered service before proceeding to their classes. Here they have an opportunity to re-connect with each other and to experience the entire Religious Education community.

**One Room Schoolhouse:** On these Sundays, young children in grades pre-K through 5th grade gather in a large group for worship and for thematic activities directed at deepening their spiritual selves. Older children are invited to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

*A Nursery with a video feed of the service as well as appropriate toys and diapering facilities is available for parents and their infants.*

## Music

Music is an important part of our program, both in the sanctuary and at Children's Worship.

Various musicians, instrumentalists as well as vocalists, enrich our Sunday mornings with their gifts. Children have opportunities to experience and participate in a musical experience as part of worship.

## What will my child learn?

### About Jesus?

Our children learn about the historic Jesus, his life and times, and the impact of his ministry. They learn that Jesus was a loving human teacher who helped people to understand each other and be kind to one another. In following the guidance of the ideals of love, peace and forgiveness taught by Jesus, we make the world a better place to live.

### About The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books telling about the early days of the Jewish people, their ideas about God, the teaching of Jesus, and what some of his followers said about him. The Bible is not taught as the "singular word of God." Bible stories are used to teach a lesson, and acquaint our children with their Judeo-Christian heritage.

### About World Religions?

Our children will learn about scriptures, deities, holy days and customs of a variety of world religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Taoism, and Native American religions. Through these studies we hope to show our children that there are many spiritual paths people take to find meaning, and there is no one path that works for everyone

### About God?

Many people think that their lives are part of a much larger life force, and they call that larger force "God." People the world over have different ideas of what God is like. We share many of these ideas with our children, and encourage them to develop their own. Our children also learn that belief in God is not necessary to the living of a good and meaningful life.