



Children's Ministry 2020-21



We would love to help your child connect at First Church. Feel free to call or email with any questions.

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SUNDAY MORNING

Children's Chapel: Children ages three (by September 1) through 4th grade are invited to participate in Children's Chapel from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. each week on Zoom. Young disciples will connect with our worship tradition while exploring the Bible and our relationship with God through interactive and online-compatible stories, music, prayer, play and more in an engaging virtual setting led by FUMC's Children's Ministry and volunteer staff. Smaller breakout groups will be implemented as necessary, and educational and spiritual resources will be provided for families to follow along or build on each week's activities at home.

Connect56: Young disciples entering grades 5 and 6 will engage in a variety of learning, worship, social-emotional, and mission and service activities as older elementary and middle school students. Children's Ministry and volunteer staff will journey with Connect56 members as they continue to grow in their faith at FUMC, weekly from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Educational and spiritual resources will be provided for families to follow along or build on each week's activities at home.

WEEKLY

Children's Choir: Lift your voice in Children's Choir! Led by FUMC's Minister of Music & Organist Dr. Brian Schoettler, Children's Choir is open to children in 1st through 6th grade, regardless of musical background. The choir meets Wednesdays from 5:00 - 5:30pm on Zoom from September to May, sharing its gifts once a month in virtual worship.

MONTHLY

Family Fellowship Groups: Beginning the week of September 27 and continuing through May, families with children ages 0 to 6th grade will meet once a month to socialize and connect in small groups through stories, music, at-home spiritual practices, and service opportunities designed to build on Sunday morning lessons and activities. Small groups will meet for one hour on Zoom, with options for in-person,

physically distanced meetings according to FUMC's "Protocols and Guidelines for Church Building Use and In-Person Events." Exact dates and times TBD.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October Time with Young Disciples: Throughout the month of October, families with children ages 0 to 6th grade are invited to safely socialize and connect outside on the lawn and steps of First Church's Hinman Avenue entrance on Saturdays from 3:00 - 3:30pm. This short time of outdoor and in-person family fellowship will offer stories, music, spiritual practices, and a live taping of our Time with Young Disciples for Sunday Virtual Worship (weather permitting). All participants must follow general safety guidelines as outlined in Section 1 and 5 D. of the ReTurn Committee's Report: <https://bit.ly/2ZmWi9o>. Pre-registration is required: <https://forms.gle/LDtBuQWshyiFk8Uq8>

Bible Sunday: Third graders receive a name embossed Bible during virtual worship on Sunday, October 18.

“Raising White Kids” Author Discussion: Together with St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Evanston, First United Methodist Church invites you to join best-selling author Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey, author of "Raising White Kids," for a conversation with St. Luke's rector, Kat Banakis. All participants are expected to have read "Raising White Kids" in advance. The conversation will also touch Harvey's other popular book "Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation." Registration and tickets (discounted for First Church members) available here: <https://bit.ly/33eyhn9>.

Family Advent Workshop: Welcome Advent on Sunday, November 29 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on Zoom with simple wreath-making and an introduction to at-home spiritual practices and daily devotions designed to help your family participate in this season of active waiting!

"Why Wait?" Family Advent Series: Many of us have been asking just that this year: why wait? The sacred season of Advent offers helpful and faithful responses to the question of why God might want us to wait, and how. This four-part weekly series starting Sunday, November 29 through December 20 invites families to take a biblical view of time by considering the experience of waiting for certain figures in the Bible, while creatively engaging in the *activity* of waiting. Each 30-minute session will take place on Zoom following virtual worship.

Annual Christmas Pageant: This year's pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 13 during virtual worship. Preparation for the pageant will take place during Children's Chapel and Connect56 beginning in November. Children ages three through 6th grade are encouraged to participate!