



God-Given Gifts: Explore, Discover, Learn

Christian Education Ministry Growing the Mind, Heart, and Spirit

Adult

Bible study and spiritual development present many opportunities and use a variety of methods. These events vary by theme, season, and the specific nature of the program or curriculum. Opportunities include meditation, seminars, classes, book studies either for a short term or an on-going basis.

Short-Term Opportunity Spiritual Gifts Classes

Saturdays
Part One Sept. 19
Part Two Oct. 3
Part Three Oct. 10

Mondays
Sept. 21
Oct. 5
Oct. 12

God gifts each of us with abilities to serve and love as Christians. This three-part series offers the opportunity to learn about specific gifts from God and to discover which gifts are ours personally. Participants can attend either a Saturday or Monday session for each part. There is a small charge for the workbook.

On-Going Opportunity Sunday Morning Bible Study September through May 8:30 a.m. — 9:15 a.m. Church Parlor

What better way to begin Sunday mornings than to spend time learning from the Bible. This group gathers to read, explore, and share the Bible's meaning for our lives today. The format is friendly and the material follows easy-to-use booklets with scripture and prayers. Themes are organized on a quarterly basis. Participants receive their own booklet and are welcome to join the class at any time.

Volunteers and Staff

Christian Education Staff

Laura Manikas
Pat McCure
Church Hours

Thursdays: 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Sundays: 9:00 am-11:00 am

Office Administrative Assistant

Linda Dubois
Church Hours
Mondays-Fridays
9:00 am-5:00 pm

Program Leaders

Little Lambs
Cynde Carpenter
Sandie Rutter
Samantha Morgan

Young Christians

Laura Manikas
Randy Strong
Cindy Pecka

Youth Group

Pat McCure
Mark Nienhuis
Sharon Bockholdt
Pastor Matthew Baugh

Adult Groups

Marie Lawrence
Cynde Carpenter
Stephanie Nienhuis
Larry McCure

Community Circles

These small, adult groups come together once a month for fellowship and faith exploration. Meeting in homes, each group decides its own schedule and topics for discussion. Leadership is shared. Current circles study specific Scripture passages, Christian principles and values, and read books. For more information, contact Pat McCure in the church office.



Ministering to Children and Youth

Children

Families are encouraged to attend church together every Sunday. At the 9:30 a.m. worship service, children and youth of all ages are invited to sit together in the front pews for the opening of worship. The young people participate in the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Gloria Patri, Passing the Peace of Christ. They use their own special bulletins and record their attendance in a pew registry. This time includes a children's message. On occasion, children share in baptisms and other special celebrations. Adult leaders greet and sit with the children. Family members are welcome to sit with the children, too.

Sunday Morning Program 9:45 a.m. — 10:40 a.m.

After the children's message, the young people exit worship to attend the Sunday Morning Program. There are three groups in the program appealing to youth three years through eighth grade. Each group begins with a Gathering Time which includes a snack.

Little Lambs 3 and 4 year olds

This group meets in the Middle Classroom on the second floor for snack, games and crafts. Story time introduces Bible characters, events, and Christian values and relates them to the present. Making friends and seeing Jesus as a friend are primary focus.

Young Christians 5 through 9 year olds

This group meets in the Big Classroom on the second floor for snack, games and crafts. Story time introduces Bible characters, events, and Christian values and relates them to the present. Children become more familiar with the Bible and begin a closer relationship with Jesus as friend and savior. Children participate in song and prayer.

The Sunday Morning Program uses *Whole People of God Online* curriculum. It is a lectionary-based, ecumenical resource that empowers all ages to be transformed in Christ. It explores the mystery and meaning of the Bible, celebrates the sacraments and events in the liturgical year, and encourages growing in faith through prayer, love, service, justice, and witness. It is supported by the United Church of Christ.

Youth Group 10 — 13 year olds

Youth Group is the third level of the Sunday Morning Program. Depending on the lesson, they meet in the Youth Room on the second floor or in Fellowship Hall. Group building and faith exploration are the primary focus.

This class serves as pre-confirmation. Learning about the Bible, discussing Christian celebrations and concepts, and establishing a relationship with Jesus prepare the youth for participation in the confirmation program. Combining faith with fun is an important ingredient. Class includes games, cooking, puppetry, and more.

Youth Group also enjoy social events like football games, pizza parties, and bowling. Bringing friends is strongly encouraged.



Nursery 9:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Nursery is available during the first worship service for infants and toddlers through two years. It is located on the main floor across from the sanctuary and staffed with adult volunteers.

Worship Bags

For children who prefer to remain in worship with their families, worship bags are available from the ushers. These bags can make worship more enjoyable and meaningful for the child and help the parent/guardian to concentrate on worship and the message.