

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2024

Dear First Church Families:

Happy Holiday Season! Yikes, how did that happen? Thanksgiving will be here quickly and then right onto Christmas. What a joyous time, but it's a busy one. **This Sunday, November 3rd at our 10am Combined Service will be our third Children's Church.** Last month we had fun talking about Noah and making tinfoil boats that all floated quite well! November's focus is on God as a provider, and we'll be making salt dough to use as we talk about how God provided for Moses and the Israelites during their time in the wilderness. ****As a reminder Children's Church is for any child PK3 through 5th grade. We will all begin as families in church and then the kids will be dismissed to room M-107. It is a wonderful time for us all to be together on our special first Sundays. Please note that the Infant-Toddler Room will be open for the entire service.****

Upcoming Events & Happenings

Connected by Faith: Second Wednesdays (November 13th & December 11th) from 4:30-5:30: Fireside Room

All are welcome to come and learn more about what the Sunday School has been up to! Fun crafting stations will begin at 4:30 and we will wrap up our time together with a short, casual time of worship. I hope this time allows families who may be busy to have a bit of worship time each month and/or for people to get to know each other better. This event will take place in the Fireside Room and no registration is necessary. If you would like to attend the dinner at 5:30, please let Don know by emailing connectdinner@firstchurch.org. Kids' meals are always available!

Children's Choir

Our Choir Director, Sean McCarthy, is starting up a Children's Choir program for kids who love to sing, starting with grades 3-6 on Wednesday afternoons. They'll learn music reading and rhythm skills through a variety of fun games, play choir chimes, discover their singing voices, and even prepare anthems each month for church services! Email him at seanm@firstchurch.org for more information.

Holidays on Main: Thursday, December 5th

This is a great opportunity to welcome the community into our church. Barbara Pierce and Pastor Todd head up the fire pit and cocoa bar. Inside, the Preschool Families (& our Sunday School) are displaying Decorated Mini-Christmas Trees and I will have a simple star craft for participants to make or take with them. The congregation is also welcome to decorate their own trees for the display, let me know if you'd like more info.

Christmas Pageant & Cookie Party: Sunday, December 8th at 3pm

This will be a simple pageant in the Meetinghouse followed by a time of fellowship sharing cookies and cocoa in Wells Fellowship Hall. Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas Cookies to share with others. We would love for everyone to be involved in the pageant! There will be one rehearsal on Sunday, December 1st either during Children's Church or right after church. The final run-through will be on Sunday the 8th at 2, right before the pageant. Please let me know if you would like to be involved or simply sign-up on the sheet in Wells Fellowship Hall.

Drop-off Movie Afternoon: Saturday, December 14th from 3:30-6:30

This is a fundraiser for the Children & Youth Ministries. Kids age 3+ can be dropped off for an afternoon Christmas Movie, Craft and a Pizza Dinner. Cost is \$20 for a family's first child and \$10 for each additional child. The idea is to give parents some time to themselves during this busy season while their kids have some Christmas Fun! Stay tuned for more information on registering! (Please note-- we are happy to accommodate any dietary restrictions, just let me know!)

In closing, I hope you can take some time this month to come to God in thanks for the many blessings we have in our lives. To help us with this, the Sunday School Bulletin Board is serving as an interactive board this month. Feel free to add something you're grateful for to a leaf! Also, please be aware that the church is involved in making and delivering Thanksgiving Meals to people in need. Feel free to get involved! It is a great way to give back to our community and involve your kids in service.

Finally, a closing prayer.

As you sit quietly in My Presence, let Me fill
your heart and mind with thankfulness. This is
the most direct way to achieve a thankful stance. (Psalm 4:7-8)

Dear God,

Help us to find time in the coming month to sit in Your Presence. In this way we can slow down and recognize all the goodness You have provided. We also recognize that this can be a hard season. It can be hard if we're missing a loved one,
or seeing or feeling the inequities in the world.

Help us to know how we can serve others.

We pray this in your name.

Amen

As always, please reach out with any questions and/or concerns!

In Christian Faith,

Megan Ettliger

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