

September 1, 2006

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At First Congregational UCC, we recommit ourselves each year to the spiritual formation and Christian Education of our children and youth. As our children and youth learn the stories of our ancestors, ask pressing questions, sing songs, and use their hands and bodies to create new things, we are reminded of our congregational covenant to walk the sacred path of discovery with them.

Fall is upon us and Sunday school classes begin on September 10th. As we commission our teachers and enter another year of growth, I want you to have the necessary information at your fingertips.

Sunday school Classes: We have outstanding teaching teams committed to the spiritual growth of our children and youth throughout the next year. Each teaching team consists of three adults: 2 teachers, who are responsible for lesson planning, and one assistant who aids teachers. We also have wonderful substitute teachers lined up to fill in when necessary. Every week there will be two adults present in each classroom. This year we are trying something new in an effort to incorporate arts into all Sunday school classes. We will have an Arts Teaching Team which will bring music, dance/movement, crafts, and theater to Sunday school classes in collaboration with teaching teams. We are in the process of hiring someone who will work a few hours each week to guide our music programming with children and youth, and hope to have this person in place by September 10th. Sunday school runs from 9:15-10:15am. Parents need to pick up children 3rd grade and under from Sunday school at 10:15am. On the first Sunday of classes, help will be available to direct kids to classes. Below is a list of age groups and teaching teams.

Preschool: Liz Langrall & Marie Warlick (teachers), Suzanne Brooks (assistant)
K-2: Catherine Gibson & Noel Nickle (teachers), Matt Dotson-Smith (assistant)
3rd Grade: Tadd Clarkson & Kristi Schleder (teachers), Emily Townes (assistant)
4-5th Grade: Amy Boyd & Meg Word-Sims (teachers), David Langrall (assistant)
6-8th Grade: Leslie Boyd & Jennifer Lebold (teachers), John Whitener (assistant)
9-12th Grade: Morgan Daven & April Spencer (teachers, Win Word-Sims (asst.)
Arts Teaching Team: Smitty Dotson-Smith (dance/movement), Amanda Hendler-Voss (theater), Peggy Hester (crafts)

Nursery and Toddler Care: The nursery is located on the top floor of the education building. A paid child care worker will be present in the nursery at 9:00am. Please remember to bring a labeled diaper bag with all necessary supplies.

Extended Session: We value the presence and participation of children in worship. During worship, children are invited to the front of the sanctuary for what we call "A Time With Children." Many choose to bring their offering at this time. After "A Time With Children," those in kindergarten and under go to the preschool room for Extended

Session. First graders are welcome to attend Extended Session once or twice a month. They sing together, make crafts, and play games indoors or outdoors (depending on the weather). Parents need to pick up children in Extended Session at 11:45am. Children in 1st-3rd grade have their own Extended Session once a month, typically on the second or third Sunday. First grade is considered a transitional year, because all first graders are not ready to sit through the whole of worship. We encourage parents to make the decision that is best for their child, but we do ask that first graders remain in worship at least once a month to begin to make the transition to worshipping with us. Parents, youth, and other adults are asked to volunteer in Extended Session to help limit the number of paid workers we hire for that time; please talk to Jennifer Lebold about volunteering.

Parent Involvement: We ask that all parents volunteer every other year for a role that aids children or youth programming at FCUCC. Many of you have already signed up for this year, or perhaps you chose to take this year off. For those of you who have not filled out your child's Sunday School Information Sheet, I have enclosed a blank form with this letter, and it asks on the back that you let us know how you'd like to volunteer with children and youth programming.

Questions: If you have any questions or would like to know more, please don't hesitate to contact me at 252-8729 or ahendlervoss@gmail.com I look forward to getting to know your children and youth even more and growing together in love.

In Peace,

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Minister of Christian Education