

Storm Closings

As winter approaches, and in New England the snow could fly anytime, we want to make sure you all know how to find out if church school is canceled.

Please read the TV announcement carefully. Each channel has its own choices of wording. Here's what to look for:

Channel 7 WHDH

"No Morning Classes" means no 9am Church School classes

"No Morning Program" means no 10:30am Worship Service

Channel 5 WCVB

"No Religious Classes" means no 9am Church School classes

"No Religious Services" means no 10:30am Worship Service

Channel 4 WBZ

"No Religious Education" means no 9am Church School Classes

"No Religious Services" means no 10:30 Worship Service



You might also find cancellation notices on the church website or the faith formation website. {addresses on the front cover}



UNITED PARISH OF LUNENBURG

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978-582-6572

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Faith Formation website: uplfaithformation.weebly.com

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS 2017 - 2018



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to providing programs that enable growth in Christian faith and in the knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Foremost, we want our children to learn that they are never alone, and through the example of Jesus, we can communicate with God and find guidance in our daily lives.

We believe an active faith is developed in a learning environment that teaches compassion and respect for ourselves and others through involvement. In this atmosphere we all experience our church as an extended family, which is a loving, fun, forgiving and accepting community.



UNITED PARISH OF LUNENBURG

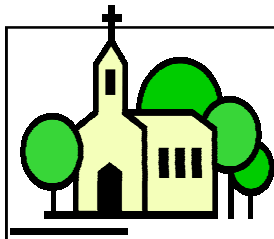
We are a community learning to follow Jesus:
growing in faith, love and service.
Open & Affirming, Reconciling

The Rev. Ernie Farrar, Pastor
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Ruth Ann White,
Director of Educational Ministries
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Welcome to the Christian Education Program at the United Parish of Lunenburg. We have a dynamic and growing congregation. You will find in this booklet many opportunities for learning and sharing with one another, so that we can live out our faith everyday.

We hope that this booklet will tell you what you need to know. Please feel free to contact Ruth Ann White with your questions.



Welcome to the United Parish of Lunenburg; we're so glad you're here! We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning to follow Jesus; growing in faith, love and service. We don't claim to have ALL the answers but we ARE committed to exploring the questions together in a friendly, loving and safe environment. I can't wait to see YOU around the United Parish!

Peace, Ruth Ann

SCHEDULE FOF FAITH FORMATION CLASSES & WORSHIP

8:45am	Teachers & Shepherds arrive to be ready for class
9:00am	Grades Pre-K to 4 meet in the Chapel before moving to classrooms. Grades 5-12 meet in their Breakfast Club rooms.
10:15am	Faith Formation Classes end, Parents pick up students at Parish House.
10:30am	Worship in the Sanctuary; "Junior Church" after "Children's Time" in Vestry (except on Family Sunday); Nursery available
11:30am	Coffee Hour in the vestry

CHAPEL TIME

Children and Teachers in Pre-K (age 3) through Grade 4 meet in the Chapel in the Parish House from 9:00 - 9:20 for a time of singing, celebrating birthdays, sharing information and special programs (i.e., Advent Wreath, UNICEF, etc.). Students in the Jr. High and High School Class go directly to their classrooms at 9:00. We appreciate everyone arriving on time at 9:00 AM.

OUR FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS NEED YOU!!

VOLUNTEERING

With the exception of the part-time Director of Educational Ministries, our extensive Church School program is run entirely by volunteers. We are grateful to the many people who volunteer their time and talents each year. We offer this opportunity to all in our congregation, because "It takes a village to raise a child." There are three areas of ministry, with which we need help on a regular basis, as well as some "one-time" tasks which support our program.

- **Church School Teachers and Workers** - We need teachers, shepherds, helpers and substitutes who are part of a team. We also need Chapel Time song leaders and an accompanist, an attendance secretary, a supply clerk, Sunday morning hosts and a librarian.
- **Special Event Coordinators and Helpers** - One of the ways our young people learn is through the special events which are scheduled throughout the year, such as UNICEF, Heifer, Yuletide Festival and the Lenten Program. The Director of Educational Ministries will provide necessary program resources and step-by-step assistance for volunteers.
- **The Christian Education Committee** - This group meets once a month from August through June to set the policy for the Church School and oversee its operation. This year's members are Nancy Gangnon, Yvonne Long, and Prudy Parsons. Contact any of these people if you would like to discuss Church School policy or join the committee.

In Order to Volunteer - In addition to the above areas, there are many short term projects that need volunteers too. You can fill out the volunteer form or contact the Director of Educational Ministries, Ruth Ann White (978-582-6572).



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

ACOLYTES AND OTHER WORSHIP LEADERS

We invite families to assist in worship by being acolytes and greeters under the guidance of the Worship Committee. We also encourage teens to be involved in Worship, reading scripture, ushering, greeting, leading Children's Time, serving communion and, occasionally, preaching the sermon. We are open to new ideas that enable young people to feel involved in worship and to find it meaningful. We welcome the students' suggestions.

JUNIOR CHURCH

During worship, after Children's Time, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade may go downstairs for Junior Church. This is a cooperative program. Parents who make use of this program are expected to take turns providing coverage partnering with our Director of Educational Ministries. We also have on hand a collection of board games, craft supplies and videos.



SENIOR CHOIR

While we search for a new Director of Music Ministries, our Senior Choir will continue to practice one weekday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:00. Anyone 9th grade and older is welcome; no musical training is required. The nursery is available for you on Sunday mornings.

HAND CHIME CHOIR

We have a lovely set of Hand Chimes purchased in memory of the Rev. Leslie Johnson. These are being used by a Hand Bell Choir with members from UPL and North Leominster UCC. If you are interested, contact Deb Anderson, 978-582-7117.

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Pre-K and K	Nancy Gangnon and Michelle Gangnon
Middle School	Yvonne Long, Michelle DellaValle
High School	Tracy Koutonen, Paula Welch, and Bill White w/ Parents taking turns as cooks

TEACHERS/SHEPHERDS GRADES 1-5

Ryan Dupill	Joe Karpinski
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ASSOCIATE STAFF

<i>position available</i>	Nursery Coordinator
Pam Hill	Church School Hospitality
<i>position available</i>	Librarian
Natalie Aalto	Birthday Cards



Old Chinese Proverb

I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Ruth Ann White is our Director of Educational Ministries. She works with the Education Committee planning and implementing the Church School program for children from birth through high school graduation. Together they integrate it with programs and activities of the whole Church to create our Faith Formation Program.

Ruth Ann provides orientation sessions and resources for staff.
Ruth Ann is in the church office on Tuesdays and Fridays.

21ST CENTURY FAITH FORMATION

Faith formation is a process that helps people from every age group to grow in their faith, through their congregation as well as their daily lives.

This process guides individuals and families in discerning their spiritual/religious needs and helps them in creating their own personal pathways for faith growth and learning. It is “the umbrella” under which we find “Church School classes”, but it includes ***all*** the learning and growing that happens when we are gathered as a faith community or at home with our families or in any other place we find ourselves. Every moment is a teaching moment.



21st Century Faith Formation is a process that offers programs not just in physical settings, but in virtual settings as well, and may often combine these settings to accommodate all groups/individuals. The process adapts to the technological advancements of the past century, and the continuing advancements that lead individuals away from the need to necessarily be physically present with each other. It is not a question of *EITHER* technology, *OR* meeting face-to-face; it includes *BOTH* of these!



We have our own Family Faith Formation Website to connect and support families. We hope to amplify what happens here in our time together and to provide information and resources when you are not able to be with us. It's fun for the kids too!

FAITH BASICS

Each class covers specific “basics” of our faith, appropriate to each age level which are not always presented by the curriculum. We incorporate one or more of these “basics” into our rotation lessons each year:

- Ten Commandments (this year)
- The Great Commandment
- The Lord's Prayer
- The 23rd Psalm
- The Beatitudes
- The Golden Rule (this year)
- The Last Supper
- John Wesley's three basic rules:
 - ◆ Do no harm
 - ◆ Do good
 - ◆ Stay in love with God



We are also learning how to use our Bibles, how to pray, and about how to participate in the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS aka “Camperships”

We know that attending a summer church camp is often a life-changing experience, so we provide scholarships from our parish to help defray the cost of attending. Schedules will be distributed in the spring. Each individual camp may be contacted for financial aide.



FUNDRAISERS

Several times each year we host events that raise funds to supplement the expenses of our program. For example in the fall we have our Pecan Sale. We rely on our adults and students to help with fundraiser events.

CHURCH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our library is located in Andrew Hall (second closet on the left), which is in the Parish House. There are books available for all ages - both fiction and non-fiction - suitable for study or pleasure. In addition to biblical topics, we have books that deal with grief and death, sexuality and family matters. To check out any of these books for one month, just put your name and date on the card found in the book and leave the card in the box labeled “Sign Out”. Return books in the box labeled “Return Books Here”.

COMMUNICATION — ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Our primary source of communication is our website, where parents can check for updates. In addition, an overview of Church School activities for the upcoming months can be found on the “Faith Formation Page” of the monthly **Newsletter**. More timely information is communicated through the weekly worship bulletin, the Faith Formation web page, e-mail and Facebook..

Our Breakfast Club has its own Facebook page. It is set up so that only members can view and post on it.

Our Family Faith Formation website:

<http://uplfaithformation.weebly.com>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

CHURCH SCHOOL OFFERING

The Education Committee feels it is important that children learn to contribute to their church as well as its wider mission, which last year included UNICEF, Heifer Project, and MIHN. Offering envelopes will be offered to all children at Church School. We suggest that families plan together how to share their gifts. We build lessons into our program about stewardship: sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

DISMISSAL

We ask parents to be prompt in picking their children up at 10:15 at the close of Church School to enable teachers to get to Worship. Please note: Pre-K and Kindergarten children will be dismissed only to an adult or older sibling at their classroom. Older children may be picked up in Andrew Hall.

NURSERY CARE

We provide Nursery care for infants through Pre-Kindergarten from 10:00am - 12:00 noon so parents can participate in Sunday morning activities. Our paid Nursery Attendant, Meg Smith, provides consistency to these young ones. Parents who make use of this service are expected to take turns providing coverage as the second adult. Students in 4th grade and older volunteer on a rotating basis. The Nursery is located downstairs from the Sanctuary.

BIBLES

The Good News Bible (Today's English Version) is given to 3rd and 4th Graders. In the classroom, teachers may choose from several translations, appropriate to their class age level, including *"Living God's Way: Bible Stories Retold for Children in Today's World"*, published by Logo Publishing.

CONFIRMATION

Students in Middle and High School may join our congregation as full members after completion of our confirmation program. Our pastor will meet with candidates for an informational meeting during the winter. Confirmation class will begin during Lent. This is an important step in faith development. Students are encouraged to continue in our Breakfast Club during and after this program. Contact our pastor if you are interested in joining this year's confirmation class.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

All children are thanked for their participation, however often they are able to attend. In addition we recognize those who have excellent attendance at Church School. The Sundays they attend do not have to be consecutive. Children will also get credit for attending another church or participating in a charitable activity (e.g.: hunger walk), as long as parents notify our Director or Office Manager.

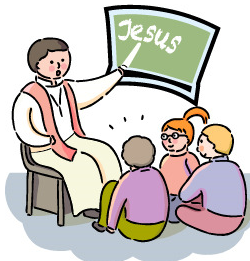
At UPL Faith Formation looks like:

- Enjoying Faith Formation classes on Sunday mornings
- Learning through cooking, drama, music, science, computers, storytelling, games, art and video
- Raking leaves at the Parsonage.
- Making apple crisp to raise money for UNICEF
- Sorting UNICEF coins after Halloween
- Supporting a local child in his efforts to receive a service dog, both financially and personally
- Playing with the children at the MIHN Shelter for homeless families
- Helping in the Nursery
- Sharing between a confirmand and mentor
- Leading a prayer at Children's Time in Worship or designing and leading an entire worship service.
- Greeting Easter worshippers with "Alleluia Bells"
- Adults sharing their life stories, struggles, and faith with children
- Interacting and exploring Our Faith Formation website at home
- Making subs for Super Bowl Sunday to benefit MIHN
- Visiting Heifer Project's Overlook Farm in Rutland
- Realizing the many ways we are shaped as disciples of Jesus



Our children embrace the concepts of hospitality and acceptance. They demonstrate to all of us their openness to new friends and their tolerance of each other's differences.

A Peek at our Faith Formation Age Level Programs



Pre-K and K: After Chapel Time, the children go to their own classroom, with the security of a consistent team of teachers. Nancy Gangnon and Michelle Gangnon use storytelling, singing, prayer and snack to share God's love and our love. They learn the Golden Rule, and Communion basics. It's all about love and fun!

Grades 1-4: We meet in the Chapel each Sunday morning then move to a rotation activity. We explore the Topic of the Rotation using some combination the following media: Art, Computers, Cooking, Games, Music, Science, Storytelling, or Video. With consistent Shepherds and rotating teachers Bible concepts are explored in an interactive and fun setting.

Grades 5-12: We have two "Breakfast Club" Jr. grades 5-8 and Sr. grades 9-12.

Teens—YOU are invited for fellowship, discussion, and service.

(Parents: expect a letter about taking turns providing a simple breakfast for the group. This is a team effort!)

Come! Discover what it really means to follow Jesus!

You will be part of a program designed to:

- Guide you to discover how the Bible, God and our church relate to your life,
- Create a strong community where you can draw strength and put your faith into action,
- Encourage you to identify and develop a personal ministry and a group mission.



Other activities will depend on the discoveries and interests of the group.

We are using the "Three-legged stool" theory of youth programming; if one leg is lost, then the stool collapses!

You will see in their schedule a combination of these, moving beyond the walls of the church for fun and mission .

The leaders have been meeting and planning during the summer.

This is just a taste...

It's going to be a great year!



SAFE CHURCH POLICIES

Our Safe Church Support Team exists to ensure that the Parish is a safe haven for ALL. We hope to encourage feelings of comfort, mutual respect, and safety for all ages.

To that end, we have procedures for:



- ☑ Providing a plan for emergencies or injuries
- ☑ Dealing with harassment
- ☑ Safe guarding against abuse within the youth groups
- ☑ Preventing and reporting child molestation that include:
 - 2 unrelated adults present with children at all times
 - Adults must have been with the church for at least 6 months before volunteering
 - No corporal punishment

Our Safe Church Support Team implements the policy and responds to reports. A complete set of rules, guidelines and procedures is available in the church office.



DISCIPLINE

It is the philosophy of the United Parish that all young people are children of God and therefore entitled to a Christian Education. Our church is blessed with devoted and talented adults who volunteer their time to prepare and teach Sunday School lessons. They deserve the respect and appreciation of all students. In the rare event that a child's behavior disrupts the learning of other students, they will be sent to the Christian Education Office and supervised by adults for the remainder of the class time. Should the behavior become chronic, parents will be notified, and may be asked to "shadow" their child on Sunday morning.

