

Sunday morning for Children

8:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

This more intimate and slightly more brief service is offered year-round. You will hear scripture readings, a sermon, and prayers leading to Communion. All are welcome to this service.

10:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

This service of Holy Eucharist includes scripture readings, a sermon, prayers leading to Communion, and a full choir and music. During the academic school year, children in grades PreK through Grade 5 are encouraged to attend Sunday School beginning at 9:45 AM in the Church's education wing. Following the readings and sermon, children join their families and the congregation for Holy Communion. Professional childcare is offered year-round for toddlers and infants during this service. Coffee Hour for all ages follows in the Parish Hall immediately after the service.

Worshipping with your child

Children are an integral part of the community and the worship life of the parish. The following suggestions may be helpful for your child to feel confident in Sunday worship. One is choosing a seat up front with an unobstructed view of the altar. Another is sitting in the same general area each Sunday. A special table for younger children near the entry to the church holds an assortment of books, "The Sunday Paper" worship bulletin, materials for quiet play, paper and crayons. Sometimes the best way to experience worship is by leading it! Older children and youth are encouraged to participate as worship leaders by reading, serving as an acolyte, or serving as a greeter. Contact the Rev. Jen Vath (contact info on front) regarding children's participation in worship and training opportunities for these roles.

All are encouraged to come up to the altar to receive either Holy Communion or a blessing. Adults and children who prefer a blessing are asked to cross their hands over their chest.

CHILDCARE – ages ~6 months – 2+ years

9:45 am – 11:30 am

Childcare is available every Sunday during the 10 AM service. Experienced, qualified childcare Professionals staff the nursery. Our nut-free childcare room is downstairs in the education wing in Room 113. Please see an Usher for help locating the room. Contact the Rev. Jen Vath (contact info on front)

Christian Formation for Children at Christ Church

CHURCH SCHOOL *Preschool – 5th Grade*

9:45 am – 10:40 am

Our Church School is a community that strives to welcome and accept all.

GRADES Pre-K-5

Children in grades Pre-K to 5th are invited to participate in the well-regarded Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religious education program. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is based on the conviction that God and the Child are in relationship already. Catechesis is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy and sacraments of the church, and finds inspiration from the educational principles of Maria Montessori. This approach seeks to give children the guidance and vocabulary to encourage awareness of one's relationship with God and give expression to it. Sunday School teachers embark on their own faith journey alongside the children to wonder and explore. This allows children the freedom and joy to love God and form a community among their peers. Children are presented age-appropriate themes from the Bible and use manipulative materials to internalize and ponder the great mysteries of faith. Classrooms are located in the Church's Education wing. A greeter will help you locate the age-appropriate classroom for your child. The main registration takes place in the fall, however, children are welcome to register and join the Sunday School program at any time in the school year.

Contact the Rev. Jen Vath (contact info on front)

BAPTISM – offered on Nov. 4, 2018 and on Jan. 13, April 28, and June 9, 2019

Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ and the church and takes place during the Sunday morning worship service. During the rite of Baptism the congregation promises to support the newly baptized in their life in Christ. Baptism may take place at any age. The parents of candidates for Baptism who are children are required to meet with the Rector for at least one session prior to the scheduled date of Baptism. Godparents or other family members also may attend the session. Childcare with a snack will be provided as needed.

Contact the Rev. Michael Hodges (contact info on front)

COMMUNION ENRICHMENT *2nd grade and above*

9:00 am – 9:45 am four Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, 24

This four-week program offered during the season of Lent is designed for children and their parents. It includes meditation on four parables and explores how we live into our Baptism. The children participate in a Saturday (March 30th) on-site retreat at which they each receive a Bible. Children and their families celebrate Communion together on Communion Enrichment Sunday, March 31st.

Contact the Rev. Jen Vath (contact info on front)

Children's Ministries

CHOIRS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANGEL CHOIR *Kindergarten – 2nd grades*

The children build a music foundation through singing and playing musical games. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 4:00-4:45 pm beginning September 20th. The Angel Choir sings every six weeks at the 10 am service and at the Christmas Eve and Easter services.

ST. CECILIA CHORISTERS *3rd – 8th grades*

Any girl or boy with an unchanged voice is welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity for children not only to gain a knowledge and love of music but also to develop their self-esteem and confidence. Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons from 4:30- 5:30 pm beginning September 13th. The choir sings a variety of music from the Anglican tradition to spirituals, jazz, classical, and newly commissioned works. The children sing monthly at the 10:00 am service and also at special services including the eleventh annual Treble Choirs Festival on Sunday, May 5, 2019 in Chelmsford.

SCHOLA *6th – 12th grades*

This is a select group of experienced young singers with unchanged voices. Auditions are required and will be held on Thursday, September 13th from 5:30-6:15 pm. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning September 20th. Special music, including Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, will be prepared for Sundays, choir festivals, concerts, evensongs, and tours.

For information about any of these choirs, contact Barbara Bruns, Minister of Music at bruns@christchurchandover.org or 978-475-0529, ext. 20

ST. MATTHEW'S GUILD OF ACOLYTES *4th -12th grades*

Acolytes in the church learn about Church traditions, help the clergy during the worship service, and get to play with fire! Acolytes serve at the altar with the clergy, Eucharistic ministers, and vergers at the 10 AM service on Sundays and on other special occasions. Training is offered year-round. Acolytes also gather seasonally for fun and fellowship. For more information about serving as an acolyte, contact Chris Wagner 978-390-9480.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT *Ages baby – 6th grade*

Rehearsals begin in late November after the 10 am service

This Christmas Eve pageant is a sacred tradition at Christ Church! There is an appropriate role for children of all ages and levels of comfort with public speaking. Rehearsals include a brief singing rehearsal (5 to 10 minutes) with all the children. Youths with speaking parts stay and continue rehearsing for 30 minutes after the singing. Contact Cindy Stavropoulos 978-604-0504

Youth Ministries

At Christ Church, the nurture and formation of young people in the Christian faith is the duty and delight of the whole congregation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 6th - 8th grades

This program strives to nurture the community of youth in 6th through 8th grades. The group honors the importance of each individual member and the unique talents and gifts each brings while being part of a larger community. The group explores the concepts and practices of prayer, spirituality, and our role as Christians in society, while engaging in fun activities and service opportunities. The group will meet initially on Sundays and will plan future meeting dates with an effort to accommodate the diversity of teens' schedules. Youth are invited to join the group at any time during the year.
Contact Kathy Serrano 978-409-2182

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 9th - 12th grades

Available to all High Schoolers, this program offers ways to explore the Christian tradition in greater depth. Continually growing into Christian discipleship in consistent community is one of the goals for this program. Opportunities for pilgrimage and mission trips encourage participants to leave the familiar and find God in new places. Youth are invited to join the group at any time for faith and fellowship and for service to the local community and the church.
Contact Hannah or Andy Whitlock 978-258-9154

CONFIRMATION 10th - 12th grades

Confirmation is offered every other year and will be offered during the 2018-2019 program year, with the Rite of Confirmation scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 4, 2019 (time and location TBD). Classes to prepare for Confirmation begin in September and meet on specific Sunday evenings. The opportunity for a weekend retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is part of this program.
Contact the Rev. Jen Vath (contact info on front)



Children's Calendar 2018 – 2019

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| September 16 | Blessing of the Backpacks Registration for church school, youth groups & choirs after 10 am service with ice cream sundaes! |
| September 23 | Church School Classes begin/Church School Parent Orientation and Ciderfest |
| September 30 | Church School |
| October 7 | Blessing of the Animals at 4:00 pm |
| October 14, 21, 28 | Church School |
| November 4 | All Saints Sunday / Baptisms |
| November 11, 18 | Church School |
| November 25 | Advent Wreath Making at 11:30am |
| December 2, 9, 16, 23 | Church School |
| December 24 | Christmas Pageant 4 pm |
| January 6 | Church School |
| January 13 | Church School /Baptisms |
| January 20 | Children's Chapel |
| January 27 | Church School |
| February 3, 10 | Church School |
| February 24 | Children's Chapel |
| March 3, 10, 17, 24 | Church School / Communion Enrichment 9 -9:45 am Communion Enrichment Retreat Communion Enrichment Sunday |
| March 30 | Church School |
| March 31 | Church School |
| April 7 | Church School |
| April 14 | Palm Sunday |
| April 19 | Good Friday Children's Chapel |
| April 21 | Easter |
| April 28 | Church School / Baptisms |
| May 5 | Church School |
| May 12 | Children's Chapel |
| May 19 | Church School |
| June 2 | Last day of Church School Choir and Teacher Recognitions |
| June 9 | Pentecost / Baptisms |

The Parish of Christ Church CHILDREN and YOUTH MINISTRIES

*We welcome you and your family to
Christ Church!*



Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for the Care of Children, *Book of Common Prayer*

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