

We believe that children are channels of the Holy Spirit, inspiring us with their energy, joy, and curiosity. Christ Church strives to offer children and youth a safe and nurturing community in which to worship, wonder, serve, and grow.

Here is what to expect for Children on Sunday mornings.

8:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

This spoken and more intimate service follows the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and lasts about one hour. Readings from Holy Scripture, a sermon, and prayers precede Holy Communion.

10:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

This service follows the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer with the addition of a robust choir and exquisite music and lasts more than one hour. A lively coffee hour follows in Parish Hall.

9:45-10:45 am Church School for Preschoolers through Grade Six

Church School is offered most Sundays during the 10 am worship service from September to June in the Education Wing. After a 45-minute class, children rejoin their families for the Eucharist. We rely on wonderful parent volunteers to teach and assist, and we encourage parents to join in the rotation.

9:45-11:30 am Childcare for babies and toddlers

No-charge professional childcare is offered for infant and toddlers while parents, grandparents or guardians attend worship.

Worshipping with your child

Children are an integral part of the community's worship life. Young children learn about worship by participating in it. Picture books, children's worship bulletins, materials for quiet play, paper and markers may be helpful resources for busy hands. These may be found on the shelves in the rear of the church.

Once children are old enough, they are encouraged to help lead worship by reading scripture, or by serving as an acolyte or greeter. On select Sundays the entire 10 am Service is especially designed for child and youth participation and features a children's sermon.

Each Sunday, everyone is invited to the altar rail to receive either Holy Communion or a blessing from a Priest. Adults and children who prefer to receive a blessing are asked to cross their hands over their chest.

Special Holidays and Celebrations

A variety of special celebrations and activities geared towards families and children take place throughout the year. Backpacks are blessed and families reconnect at Sundae Sunday and Ciderfest at the start of school in September. Pets and stuffed animals alike are blessed on St. Francis Sunday in October. Additional opportunities for fellowship include the Pancake Dinner, Family Pizza night, and Family Movie night. Children participate in a worship service dedicated to the Care of God's Creation in May.

On select Sundays throughout the year, children and parents meet in the more intimate space of the North Chapel for instruction and worship with music and a children's homily before rejoining the congregation for Holy Eucharist.

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH SCHOOL *Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6*

Children also need a space of their own to grow in faith. Our Church School program draws inspiration from Maria Montessori's [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#) and other similar approaches. More experiential than didactic, this approach to religious education recognizes the child's natural closeness to God and encourages a sense of wonder. The classroom "atria" offers access to the sacraments, prayer, silence, the Bible, geography, and history of the Christian faith.

Adult parishioners and parent volunteers serve as companions and co-learners. Children are grouped by age and developmental levels into four "atria" classrooms, Pre-Kindergartners, Kindergarten through Grade 1, Grades 2-4, and grades 5-6. The schedule for Church School may be found on the reverse side. Classes meet most Sundays except during school vacation weeks and other holiday weekends.

BAPTISM – offered on *Nov. 3, Jan. 12, Apr. 19, May 31*

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. Baptism is appropriate at any age. During the rite of baptism, the congregation promises to support the newly baptized in their life in Christ. The parents of candidates for Baptism who are children 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 3 Sundays: March 1,8,15 plus retreat day March 21

This program is designed for children and their parents to reflect on the sacrament of Holy Communion. The program includes an on-site hands-on retreat during which children learn to bake communion bread, arrange altar flowers, and prepare the church for worship. Children and their families celebrate Communion together in Church at a special service on Sunday, March 22.

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

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 are appropriate roles 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. Youth with speaking parts stay and continue rehearsing for 30 minutes after the singing. *Contact Cindy Stavropoulos 978-604-0504.*

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

Acolytes in the church learn about Church traditions, help during the worship service, and get to play with fire! Acolytes serve at the altar 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 at 978-390-9480.*

Children's Ministries in Music

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 26th. 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 12th. 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 Advent Lessons and Carols and the twelfth annual Treble Choirs Festival on Sunday, January 26, 2020, hosted by Christ Church, Andover.

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 12th from 5:30-6:15 pm. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning September 19th. Special music 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 bbruns@christchurchandover.org or 978-475-0529, ext. 20.

Youth Ministries

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 7th - 8th grades

This program strives to nurture the community of youth in 7th 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. Topics for discussion include Christian identity, practices of prayer, spirituality, and our role as followers of Christ. The group strives to strike a balance between service work and fun outings and meets on select Sundays at 11:30 am. 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, to experience the grace of Christian community and to serve in the Church and beyond its walls. The group is open to all high schoolers no matter where they may be on their spiritual journeys.

Contact Rev Jen Vath (contact info on front)

CONFIRMATION 10th - 12th grades

Confirmation invites young people to claim for themselves the promises made on their behalf at baptism. Classes to prepare for Confirmation begin in September and meet on select Sunday evenings. A Preconfirmation overnight 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 Sunday Calendar 2019-2020

September 8

Blessing of the Backpacks
Registration for church school, youth groups & choirs after the 10 am service with ice cream sundaes at Rectory

September 15

First Day of Church School and Youth Groups and parish picnic
Church School, Parent Orientation and Ciderfest

September 22

September 29
October 6

Church School and Hike for Hope
Children's sermon and Blessing of the Animals after the 10 am service
Storytime in North Chapel

October 13

October 20,27

November 3

November 17,24

December 1

December 8

December 15,22

December 24

January 5

January 12,26

January 26

February 2

February 9

February 16,23

March 1,8,15

Church School
Church School
North Chapel Worship
Church School
Pageant at 4 pm
North Chapel worship
Church School
Treble Choir Festival at 4 pm
Children's sermon
Church School
Communion Enrichment 9:00-9:45 am and Church School

March 22

Communion Enrichment Sunday with Children's sermon
Church School

March 29

April 5

Palm Sunday North Chapel Children's worship

May 3

May 17

May 31

June 7

North Chapel Worship
Creation Care Sunday
Church School
Final Sunday of Church school and Recognition Sunday

The Parish of Christ Church CHILDREN and YOUTH MINISTRIES

We welcome you and your family!



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*

Parish of Christ Church (Episcopal)
25 Central Street
Andover, MA 01810
www.christchurchandover.org

The Rev. Jen Vath, Curate

jvath@christchurchandover.org
978-475-0529, x21

The Rev. Michael Hodges, Rector

mhodes@christchurchandover.org
978-475-0529, x11