

Sunday morning for Children

8:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

Your family is welcome to join this more intimate service.

10:00 am Service of Holy Eucharist

This is a Eucharistic service with full choir and music. Children are encouraged to attend Church School starting at 9:50 am during the Lessons, Gospel and sermon. After Church School, they are led into the service at the Peace so that they can share Holy Communion with their families and community. Many families attend this service. Please join our coffee hour in the Parish Hall immediately after the service. The **children's refreshment table allows for children and parents to mingle** during this time.

Worshiping 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 Sundaes Sunday (Sept. 11) and Ciderfest (Sept. 25) 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 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Family Pizza night, and Family Movie night. Children participate in a worship service dedicated to the Care of God's Creation in May.



Christian Formation for Children at Christ Church

CHURCH SCHOOL – Pre-K through 5th Grade

9:50 am – 10:40 am

Our Church School is a thriving community!

Currently, all children in grades PreK and up are invited to participate in Church School that takes place on Sunday mornings during the academic year during the first part of our 10:00 service in the Parish Hall. We begin gathering around 9:50, and once families sign in their children, the lesson begins, led by two parent volunteers. Parents with younger toddlers and babies may attend with their children. The children are then led into the church to join their families for Holy Communion, at approximately 10:40.

The main approach to children's formation used here at Christ Church is the Montessori-based *Godly Play* program, a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages children in what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting them into Scripture and spiritual experience, modeling the worship life, stories, symbols, and rituals of Christian congregations.

Contact Josephine Nason at 781-775-9179 or e-mail josmcc23@yahoo.com

BAPTISM – offered Nov. 6, Jan. 8, April 8, April 16, May 28

Preparation of parents and godparents for the baptism of a child is an important step in the formation of Christian households and in the passing on of the faith to our children. Our goal in this class is to help individuals understand the commitment to raising children in the Christian life and faith and to give them tools to help in this process. Anyone is welcome to attend the class, and parents of those to be baptized are required to attend. Childcare with snack will be provided as needed.



Contact the Clergy at 978-475-0529, ext. 11

COMMUNION ENRICHMENT – 2nd grade and above

9:00 am – 9:45 am 3 Sundays: March 5, 12, 19 plus retreat day Sat., March 25

This is a wonderful tradition in our parish! 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 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 26th.

Contact the Clergy at 978-475-0529, ext. 11

Children's Ministries in Music

CHOIRS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANGEL CHOIR Kindergarten – 2nd grade

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 22nd. 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 Grade

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 15th. 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 choral evensongs on November 27, 2022 and May 21, 2023.



SCHOLA 6th – 12th Grade

This is a select group of experienced young singers with unchanged voices. Auditions are required and will be held on Thursday, September 15th from 5:30-6:00 pm. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning September 22nd. 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

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

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 10AM 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 Holly Jarrell-Marcinelli at 917-757-8310.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Ages baby – 6th grade

Rehearsals begin in late November after 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 20 minutes after the singing. Watch for more info in our e-Prophet!

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 graders

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. 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 at 978-809-9848

High School Youth Group – 9th – 12th graders

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 Kathy Serrano at 978-809-9848

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 several months before the Confirmation services, and usually meet on Sunday evenings, or at a time when everyone can meet. A Pre-confirmation overnight retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH is part of this program.

Contact the Clergy at 978-475-0529, ext. 11



Children's Calendar 2022 – 2023

September

- 11 Blessing of the Backpacks at 10am service
Registration after 10am service
- 18 Church School Classes begin
- 25 Church School / Parent Orientation & "Ciderfest" / Youth Groups begin

October

- 2 Church School / Blessing of the Animals
- 16, 23, 30 Church School

November

- 6 Baptisms
- 13, 20 Church School
- 27 Advent Wreath making

December

- 4, 11, 18 Church School
- 24 Christmas Pageant 4pm

January

- 8 Baptisms
- 15, 22, 29 Church School

February

- 5, 12 Church School
- 21 Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday supper

March

- 5, 12, 19 Church School
- 5, 12, 19 Communion Enrichment classes 9-9:45 am
- 25 Communion Enrichment Retreat, 9-1
- 26 Communion Enrichment Sunday

April

- 2, 30 Church School
- 8, 16 Baptisms

May

- 7, 14, 21 Church School
- 28 Day of Pentecost / Baptisms

June

- 4 Church School/ Teacher Appreciation

The Parish of Christ Church CHILDREN and YOUTH MINISTRIES 2022-23

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, *The Book of Common Prayer*

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