

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL & WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE



What is Sunday School & Wednesday Night Live?

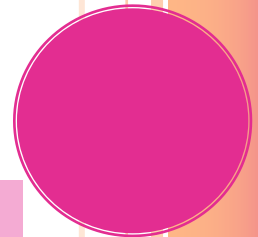
First Presbyterian Church's Sunday School & Wednesday Night Live programs are children and youth programs offered on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Our programs are designed to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each child and youth along with the family. Our ministries seek to draw each child and youth into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the church.

Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live programs have been designed to work together thus creating a bridge from Sunday to Sunday. Neither program is intended as a replacement for the other. Lessons, activities, and fellowship from Sunday and Wednesday will intertwine to enhance the Children and Youth ministry.

CONTENTS:

Ministry Basics	2 & 3
Special Dates	3
WNL Schedules	4
Weekly Procedures	5
Attendance Policy	5
Fees	5
Parent Involvement	5
Discipline Policy	6
Cell Phone Policy	6
Announcements	6
Snow Days	6
Acolytes	6

Be sure to check out the First Presbyterian Church website www.fpchastings.org often for updates and information. Children and youth information is listed under the Children & Youth menu.



MINISTRY BASICS

Ages 3 thru 5th Grade

Children in this age group use curriculum called Spark Lectionary. Children will delve into the same Bible story in Sunday school that they will hear during worship. Each lesson has four components. During Gather, kids enjoy a welcoming activity and prayer. In Open the Bible, they explore a story together in their Bibles. Then, in Activate Faith, kids experience creative activities that integrate Bible learning with everyday life. Finally, a Send activity and prayer closes the lesson. Also, on Wednesdays, there will be time for Family Time meals, Vocal & Bell Choir, and recreation.

6th thru 8th Grade

Sunday School: 6th and 7th grade students focus on biblical studies as a sort of "pre-confirmation" curriculum leading up to their official confirmation studies in 8th grade. On alternating years, the 6th and 7th graders focus on either the New or Old Testament. During the 2018-2019 school year, they will be studying the New Testament.

Students in the 8th grade (Confirmation year) will be focusing on a confirmation curriculum. *Big God Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith* prepares youth to understand and answer the Confirmation questions: 1) Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? 2) Who is your Lord and Savior? 3) Will you be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word and showing his love? 4) Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Wednesday Night Live: 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students will be focusing on a variety of curriculum and experiences with an over-all goal of connecting more deeply with their faith and one another. Wednesday nights will also include time for Family Time meals, Choir, recreation, and service projects.

Sunday School

Who: Children/Youth
age 3* thru 18
* We ask that children be potty trained before they attend.

When: Sundays thru May 2019

Time: 9:15 am -- 10:15am

Where: Memorial Room Balcony
Age 3-Kindergarten: Room 11
1st/2nd Grade: Room 12
3rd Grade: Room 6
4th & 5th Grade: Room 5

Education Wing
8th Grade: Room 114/115

Basement
6th-7th Grade: Youth Room

Annex
9th-12th Grade: Youth Room

Wednesday Night Live

Who: Children/Youth age 4-18

When: Wednesdays thru May 2019

Time: 4:00-8:15pm (see page 4)

Bible Study/Fellowship:

Memorial Room Balcony
Age 4-Kindergarten: Room 11
1st/2nd Grade: Room 12
3rd Grade: Room 6
4th & 5th Grade: Room 5

Basement
6th-8th Grade: Youth Room

Annex
9th-12th Grade: Youth Room

MINISTRY BASICS (CONTINUED)

9th thru 12th Grade

Sunday School: Our Sr. High youth will engage with a variety of curriculum and experiences designed to connect the faith they've learned with their everyday lives. They'll participate in bible study, fellowship, service projects and other endeavors to help them grow deep roots of faith.

Wednesday Night Live: With a focus on living out the faith, our youth will engage in meaningful ways in the lives of one another, the scripture, and God on Wednesday nights. We may also find some time to play, "Where's Bob Ross?" Wednesday nights also include time for Family Meals, Choir, and service projects.

SPECIAL DATES (THRU JANUARY 2019)

**Subject to change. Please check website for updates.

Sept 2NO Sunday School—Labor Day Break
Sept 94th-8th Graders & Parents Acolyte Training 9:15-10:15 am in Sanctuary
Sept 9Kindergarten, 3rd, & 8th Grade Bible Presentation at 10:30 am worship service
Sept 23Praise & Alleluia Choirs sing at 8:30 am service
Sept 30Calvin & Westminster Choirs & Bells sing/ring at 10:30 am service
Oct 71st-5th Graders & Parents Communion Lesson w/Pastor Greg 9:15-10:15 am in sanctuary
Oct 14NO Sunday School—Fall Break
Oct 21Calvin & Westminster Choirs sing at 10:30 am service
Oct 28Praise & Alleluia Choirs & Bells sing/ring at 10:30 am service
Oct 31NO WNL
Nov 18Calvin & Westminster Choirs sing at 10:30 am service
Nov 21NO WNL—Thanksgiving Break
Nov 25NO Sunday School—Thanksgiving Break
Dec 2Praise & Alleluia Choirs & Bells sing/ring at 10:30 am service
Dec 9Calvin & Westminster Choirs sing at 10:30 am service (Cantata with Chancel Choir)
Dec 16Calvin & Westminster Bells ring at 10:30 am service
Dec 26 & Jan 2NO WNL—Christmas Break
Dec 30NO Sunday School—Christmas Break
Jan 20Calvin & Westminster Choirs & Bells sing/ring at 10:30 am service
Jan 27Praise & Alleluia Choirs sing at 8:30 am service

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULES

Age 4- Kindergarten

4:00-4:30 Recreation
4:30-4:45 Worship Arts (Bells)
4:45-5:00 Worship Arts (Choir)
5:00-6:00 Bible Study
6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal

1st & 2nd Grades

4:00-4:30 Recreation
4:30-5:00 Bible Study
5:00-5:30 Worship Arts (Alleluia Bells)
5:30-6:00 Worship Arts (Alleluia Choir)
6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal

3rd & 4th & 5th Grades

4:00-4:30 Recreation
4:30-5:00 Bible Study
5:00-5:30 Worship Arts (Praise Choir)
5:30-6:00 Worship Arts (Praise Bells)
6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal

6th - 12th Grades

6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal
6:45-7:30 Worship Arts (Calvin & Westminster Choir)
7:30-8:15 Bible Study/Fellowship

1st Semester WNL

Themes

(**subject to change**; please check **website** for updates)

August 22	Welcome Back
August 29	The Old West
September 5	Birthday
September 12	Bring a Friend
September 19	Around the Campfire
September 26	Family Game Night
October 3	Birthday
October 10	Taste of Mexico
October 17	Crazy Hair Night
October 24	Halloween
October 31	NO WNL
November 7	Birthday
November 14	Thanksgiving
November 21	NO WNL
November 28	Pajama Party
December 5	Birthday
December 12	Pool Party
December 19	Christmas
December 26	NO WNL



WEEKLY PROCEDURES

Sunday School: Children/youth will proceed directly to their rooms upon arrival. We ask that parents/guardians of children in 2nd Grade and younger accompany their child to his/her room and return to the classroom for pickup. All other children/youth will be dismissed without parents present at 10:15am unless special arrangements are made.

Wednesday Night Live: Parents/guardians of children 5th grade and younger will sign in their children at the time of arrival and return to the Fellowship Hall for pickup. This means that a parent or guardian is required to physically enter and leave the building with their children. Sign-in sheets will be located at the entry to the Fellowship Hall by the office doors. In the event of late arrival, parents/guardians should escort their child(ren) to his/her scheduled activity. Also, please use the glass office door entry when leaving on Wednesdays. No one is allowed in the west part (Memorial Room, Sanctuary, Library) of the main church building after 6:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Christian Education Leadership Team affirms the right of every family to make decisions and choices regarding the activities in which their children/youth participate. If a family chooses the Sunday School and/or Wednesday Night Live Ministry, then it is encouraged that the children/youth faithfully participate in all parts of the program each week, as well as Sunday morning worship. Obviously, there will be some times in which a child/youth may not attend, and in these situations we ask for your courtesy to advise your child/youth's teacher.

Special Attendance Recognition: Children who routinely attend Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live will get a chance at a worship leadership role. Each month, all children preschool thru 8th grade with 100% Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live attendance will be entered into a drawing. Two children will be chosen each month. The children will get a chance to extend their faith growth to others by choosing to serve in one of the following worship roles: Acolyte (if under 4th grade), Usher, Music soloist, Call to Worship leader, Prayer leader, Children's Moment leader or helper.

FEES

There are no fees involved for regular Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live programs, including the Family Time Meal. Donations for meal costs will be accepted.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Active participation by at least one parent of every family participating in Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live is STRONGLY encouraged. Since the staff is essentially all volunteers, part-time service by a large number of people is essential to keep the activities going. At least as important, is the "morale-boosting" effect of the parent's physical presence and visible support of the ministry. This is a vital element in the successful operation of the Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live ministry. Please advise the Director of Education for Children & Youth on where you'd like to volunteer!

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our first and most important goal for being together is that we are to treat every person as a child of God. We will work to exhibit respect and courtesy and kindness at all times. In order to help ourselves understand what this means, here are four simple rules for ALL students and ALL staff to remember.

1. We take care of each other.
2. We take care of our things.
3. We keep our schedule.
4. We have great fun!

CELL PHONE POLICY

To increase fellowship and allow all relationships to be our focus, we ask that all cell phones not be used during Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live activities. In the event that a cell phone becomes a distraction, a student may be asked to surrender the phone to the teacher/volunteer for the duration of the activities. Parents who need to contact their child during Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live may contact the church at (402) 462-5147 or may contact the Program Director at (402) 984-0580. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will generally be printed in the “Homepage” newsletter and sent via email or regular mail. Also, most schedules and announcements are listed on the church website, www.fpchastings.org, under Children & Youth.

SNOW DAYS

In the event that Hastings Public or Adams Central Schools are canceled due to inclement weather, there will be no Wednesday Night Live. Sunday School closings will be announced via phone, television, and/or other media.

ACOLYTES

The Christian Education committee is calling upon all young people in 4th-8th grades to serve as acolytes. An acolyte is the person who lights the candles on the communion table. An acolyte is (symbolically) responsible for carrying the light of God into the worship service and out into the world.

A list of assigned dates and names for acolytes will be mailed to families in addition to being on the website calendar. In order to keep it fair, we rotate names. If you cannot serve as an acolyte on your assigned Sunday, please trade dates with another person on the acolyte list that is included with mailing. If you do make any changes/trades, please do so at least a week in advance and notify the Director of Education so that the worship bulletin will reflect the changes.