

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.

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Sunday School

Who:

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

When:

Sundays; September 12, 2021 thru May 8, 2022

Time:

9:15 am -- 10:15am

Where:

Education Wing 2nd Floor
Age 3-Kindergarten: Room 212/213
1st/2nd Grade: Room 210/211
3rd/4th Grade: Room 208/209
5th Grade: Room 206/207
8th Grade: Room 204/205

Basement

6th-7th Grade: Youth Room

PEACE Center

9th-12th Grade: Youth Room

Wednesday Night Live

Who:

Children/Youth 1st-12th Grade

When:

Wednesdays; September 8, 2021 thru May 4, 2022. (Year-end Picnic May 11, 2022 5-7pm)

Time:

4:00-6:45pm (1st-5th Grades)
6:00-8:30pm (6th-12th Grades)
*see page 4 for a more detailed schedule

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. They'll enjoy activities, prayer, and bible stories that integrate Bible learning with everyday life. On Wednesdays, there will be time for Family Time meals, Vocal & Bell Choir, and recreation.

6th thru 8th Grade (Confirmation Years)

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 2021-2022 school year, they will be studying the New Testament. Students in the 8th grade will be focusing on a confirmation curriculum. *Big God Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith* prepares youth to understand and answer the membership questions.

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, Vocal & Bell Choir, recreation, and service projects.

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, Vocal & Bell Choir, and service projects.

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. 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.

ATTENDANCE

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/Youth who routinely attend Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live will get a chance at a worship leadership role. Each month, all children/youth preschool thru 8th grade with 100% Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live attendance will be entered into a drawing. One child/youth will be chosen each month. The child/youth 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.

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.

ACOLYTES

All of the young people in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are invited to serve as acolytes. For safety reasons, each youth must complete training yearly to be eligible to serve. This training is generally held at the beginning of each fall semester. 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.

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.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ SNOW DAYS

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. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULE

1st & 2nd Grades

3:50-4:00 Drop-off
4:00-4:30 Recreation
4:30-5:00 Alleluia Bells
5:00-5:30 Alleluia Choir
5:30-6:00 Bible Study
6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal
6:45 Pick-up

3rd & 4th & 5th Grades

3:50-4:00 Drop-off
4:00-4:30 Recreation
4:30-5:00 Praise Choir
5:00-5:30 Praise Bells
5:30-6:00 Bible Study
6:00-6:45 Family Time Meal
6:45 Pick-up

6th - 12th Grades

6:00-6:20 Family Time Meal; dismiss @ 6:45 if not in bells
6:20-6:50 Calvin/Westminster Bells
6:50-7:30 Calvin/Westminster Vocal Choir
7:30-8:30 Bible Study/Fellowship

SPECIAL DATES

2021

Sept 8 Start WNL
Sept 12 Start Sunday School
Oct 13 No WNL-Fall Break
Oct 17 No Sunday School-Fall Break
Nov 24 No WNL-Thanksgiving
Nov 28 No Sunday School-Thanksgiving
Dec 19 No Sunday School-Christmas
Dec 22 No WNL-Christmas
Dec 26 No Sunday School-Christmas
Dec 29 No WNL-Christmas

2022

Jan 2 No Sunday School-Christmas
Mar 2 Ash Wednesday; WNL for 1st-5th
Only; NO 6th-12th Grade
Mar 9 No WNL-Spring Break
Mar 13 No Sunday School-Spring Break
Apr 17 No Sunday School-Easter
Apr 24 Senior Recognition
May 1 Confirmation
May 4 Last regularly scheduled WNL
May 8 Last Sunday School
May 11 Year-End Picnic: Libs Park 5-7pm