

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
HANDBOOK  
2016-2017  
First UCC of Milford,**



**Gather  
At The  
Table**

# **2016-17 Sunday School Handbook**

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## **Sunday School Mission Statement**

The mission of Sunday School at First UCC of Milford is to provide a meaningful intergenerational time for faith formation, practice, and expression for each individual in a safe, supportive Christ-centered and Spirit-led community.

### **Our Hope**

Our hope is to equip God's children for faithful living, and that they know they are welcome at God's Table!

### **Curriculum/Lessons** **"Food for the Table"**

Our Sunday School Lessons and Children's Worship are based on the Lectionary, which is a pre-selected collection of scriptural readings from the Bible that can be used for worship and study. Typically our worship services are based on the lectionary, and we hope that Sunday School is an extension of the worship experience.

Our Curricula for Sunday School Classes for Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade (as well as materials for youth, adult and congregation) is Feasting on the Word.

*"The new Feasting on the Word Curriculum: Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary is an ecumenical resource that incorporates the uniqueness of the award-winning Feasting on the Word commentaries... Each age level provides comprehensive, accessible biblical background for teachers from four perspectives. This curriculum begins with a solid scriptural and theological base for leaders and invites leaders and learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It utilizes a common Bible passage for all learners,*

making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together.” ([www.feastingontheword.net/Curriculum](http://www.feastingontheword.net/Curriculum))

We use another curriculum for our Pre-K class that shares with them foundational Bible Stories to make God’s word and Jesus’ teachings accessible and interesting. For all levels, we aim to make the Bible relevant and inspirational for our children and youth as well as to the adults who guide them in their formation. Rev. Ashley, Faith Formation Leadership and this years teaching slate are crafting additional materials for this program year. These are some of the online resources that we use:

[www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com); [www.ministrytochildren.com](http://www.ministrytochildren.com);  
[www.faithformationjourneys.blogspot.com](http://www.faithformationjourneys.blogspot.com)

## **Attendance & Interdependence**

### **“The Table Is Ready”**

The educational and spiritual benefits of our Sunday School program are dependant on the **Presence** of the student for continuity of instruction, participation and fluidity of formation. We understand that there are many demands of our time even on Sundays, but we hope to realize a substantial commitment to attend Sunday School as regularly as possible. We find that the Sunday School experience is one of **Interdependence** because teachers (faith formers) create lessons dependent on their particular students, and the students help bring the lessons and application to fruition for the whole body, which then informs the next step in their formative lessons.

## **YOU’RE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

### **“Come to the Table”**

If your child participates in an activity that takes her or him away from church on Sunday mornings, then find their grade-level goals (in this handbook) and visit the church website

([www.firstchurchofmilford.org](http://www.firstchurchofmilford.org)) to help them continue along their faith journey outside of church. When they finish their “season of activity,” then know that **you are welcome** to jump back into Sunday School for a season of Sabbath for your child’s body and mind. And for your own up-building.

Children are always welcome to Sunday School, even in their sport or dance uniforms! **And we encourage kids to bring a friend to Sunday School!**

## Worship

Children/youth will accompany their families to worship for the first 10-15 minutes of the service. They will be dismissed to their classes after the “Children’s Message” or specific liturgy.

### Children’s Worship in Woodruff Chapel \*

We offer special Children’s worship services throughout the year, which happen in Woodruff Chapel (or in Fellowship Hall). This time will provide a worship experience geared to the age-level of participants and is sometimes led by the students themselves. The children love these special services!

We ask that parents drop children off at Woodruff Chapel (which is located on the other side of the river in our Plymouth Building) at 9:55 AM, so that parents will be able to head over to the main sanctuary for the 10 AM worship service. ***Some parents are invited to stay and help along with our volunteer teachers and assistants.*** After the worship service, meet your child at the Chapel. You may sign a ***waiver, as part of the Registration Form,*** allowing children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older to walk over with the group on their own to meet you in Fellowship Hall.

\*Weather Happens...In the event of inclement weather, we will adjust plans and space as needed.

# **Sunday School & At Home**

## **Faith Formation Grade-Level Goals 2016-2017**

The Sunday School Ministry Team has compiled a list of age-appropriate learning goals for the students to work on during the year. The teachers will incorporate some of these goals into their classes, but the students are also encouraged to study them on their own. The achievement of these goals each year will help to provide the basic building blocks for a faith-filled foundation in life.

Teachers and Parents are encouraged to support the faith formation of the children in our community through the Sunday School ministry by striving toward these learning goals:

Nursery	Sharing & Using loving/kind words Nurturing a sense of welcome & safety Taking care of our space
Pre-K	Nurturing a sense of welcome & belonging Prayers, Songs & Bible Stories Sunday School is a creative place
Kindergarten	The Lord's Prayer Worship—prayers, songs, behavior, etc.
First Grade	Offering Communion
Second Grade	Basic Bible Skills Doxology Church is Fun
Third Grade	Baptism Psalm 23 Faith Timeline
Fourth Grade	Bible Skills Know first 5 books of the Old & New Testaments
Fifth Grade	Parables & Miracles

The Beatitudes

Sixth Grade Psalm 139  
Holy Week  
Spiritual Gifts

Seventh Grade Favorite Bible Story  
Order of Worship  
Liturgical Seasons

8th Gr & older Confirmation 1

9<sup>th</sup> Gr & older Confirmation 2

## Mission/Service Projects—Faith in Practice

What do we bring to the table?

Each year the entire Sunday School participates in a Mission project. Teachers/leaders may also provide other service opportunities to their classes on an individual basis. Families, as well as youth, are always welcome to participate in other activities led by the Youth Groups or other Ministries throughout the year, such as the Lenten Project and the Christmas Giving Tree.

## Sharing Our Gifts

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for you and your child to share and hone your special gifts for the good of the gathered community. There are spaces in our registration form for you to indicate what your child is eager to share: playing an instrument, reading during worship, dance, art, videography, team building, mediation, etc. We ask that parents also indicate the gifts that they have or are willing to share for the sake of our ministries: **building stuff, painting stuff, organizing stuff, chaperoning, putting together bulletin boards, playing an instrument, substituting for a teacher, etc.** Thank you for all of the ways that you will share in ministry.

## **Sunday School Expectations**

The approach to classroom management and discipline at First UCC of Milford is guided by an overall objective of showing the children how to work together in Christian community, supporting and respecting each other in our faith journey. How can we all come to the table, and not start a food fight or fuss over who sits where?

### **Students are expected to:**

- ✝ Be respectful of others in class, both peers and leaders.
- ✝ Speak in turn so that only one person talks at a time and listen when others speak.
- ✝ Participate in class.
- ✝ Maintain safe behavior, keeping members of the group physically and emotionally safe.
- ✝ Be respectful of classroom materials.

### **Leaders are expected to:**

- ✝ Prepare the lessons carefully (for example practice any games or crafts ahead of time).
- ✝ Alter lessons on a weekly basis (with the help of the teacher and/or members of the Christian Education Committee) to be appropriate to the ages and stages of the students.
- ✝ Model for the students an ability to focus on the lesson and resolve conflicts peacefully.



- † Be clear and consistent about expected behavior.
- † Assist the Special Leaders.
- † Make use of covenants, rituals, activities, or other devices which help the students open/close the class.
- † Accompany students Grade 1 and under to boys/girls room (wait outside) and any student dismissed from class for disciplinary reasons to their parents or appropriate Christian Education Sunday Super available.

### **Helpers are expected to:**

- † Be friendly to everyone in class.
- † Be ready to observe, participate or assist as the Leader directs.
- † Accompany students Grade 1 and under to boys/girls room (wait outside).
- † Accompany any student dismissed from class for disciplinary reasons to their parents or appropriate Christian Education staff person available.

### **Parents/Guardians are expected to:**

- † Make sure children/youth understand what is expected of them at Church.
- † Encourage children/youth to attend consistently by example.
- † Pick up children Nursery-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in classrooms at dismissal of worship.

- ✚ Volunteer to assist the Sunday School on some level (Leader/Teacher, [share special talents like music, building, cooking, sewing, photography, art, drama, cooking, etc.], Assistant, organize special events, etc.)
- ✚ Check in with teacher to see if she or he needs help.

## **Discipline Plan**

Limit setting is directed toward maximizing the growth and development of the children and for protecting the group and the individuals within it. If a child/youth has difficulty maintaining appropriate behavior in class or any church group activity, the adult leader will be empathetic, but firm about the need to resolve the problem.

- ✚ Positive reinforcement is the major tool of appropriate disciplining. Verbalize to the student when she/he is behaving in an appropriate manner.
- ✚ Redirect the student in a positive manner when necessary.
- ✚ Give a quiet reminder, specific to the offender, noting the unfairness of disruption to the group and requesting an apology/resolution of the problem.
- ✚ If a student is repeatedly displaying inappropriate behavior, and both redirecting and talking to the student has not worked, then she/he may be in need of a “time-out” period.
- ✚ She/he will be asked to sit out of activity for 3 minutes. The teacher will talk to the student after 3 minutes to explain appropriate behavior.
- ✚ The teacher may dismiss a student from class only if she/he is out of control, threatening the safety of others

or if all of the above tactics have been used and the student is still unwilling to cooperate in a manner that will allow the class to learn and the teachers to teach in a positive atmosphere.

- ✚ If a child is dismissed from class, they will be escorted by the teacher's assistant to their parents or, if parents are not accessible, to the Christian Education Superintendent.

### **Nursery/Childcare**

Wendy Gilbert and Mark Byers are our nursery attendants on Sunday mornings. During the program year, childcare is available from 8:45 AM to 11:45 AM, allowing parents the opportunity to host coffee hour, sing in the choir, teach or help with Sunday School or participate in educational events. Young children feel most comfortable and safe if they can associate a parent with their space, which is why we ask parents to volunteer time in the nursery. Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, etc. are welcome to volunteer!

Occasional supplies are needed. Check with Wendy or Sue to see what is needed or to schedule your volunteer time.

### **Table Grace Collection**

#### **September Collection Month**

Beginning in September, we ask each family to share the table grace or meal time prayer that they offer. You may also write a new table grace to share with the church. Families are invited to share a photo of themselves at the table. Submit prayers on the website ([www.firstchurchofmilford.org](http://www.firstchurchofmilford.org)) or Facebook: First United Church of Christ Milford or you may submit handwritten forms to the main office.

## **Friday Evening Faith Formation Ministry Night:**

**September 9**

Adults and Children

Gather at the table at 6:15 PM

Program Starts at 7 PM

Kids Game Night (bring favorite board games to enjoy with friends) with childcare provided.

First Friday in October & November

## **Homecoming Picnic: September 18**

## **World Communion All Ages Worship**

**October 2, 2016**

## **Bible Sunday for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders on November 13**

## **Holiday Craft Fair From Women's Fellowship**

**November 19 & 20**

**10 AM-3 PM in Fellowship Hall**

**Raffle Baskets:** If you or your Sunday School Class would like to make up a raffle basket, please contact Ruth McCrodden.

## **Playdate Mixer: November 19**

*for families with infants & toddlers*

We hope to welcome young families into the church family so that together we can continue to flourish as God's people. It is helpful for families experiencing similar stages in life to gather and explore how to be faithful people in their context. On Sat. 19, families with infants or toddlers, are invited to join us for a little

playdate in the **Nursery at 10:30 AM**. This is also the day of the Holiday Fair!

## **Downtown Milford Lamplight Stroll: December 2**

### **Christmas Pageant: Dec. 11 Parents Needed!**

We need **4 parents and/or adult members of the church for the directing team** of this year's pageant, and others to assist. **Dress Rehearsal** (for all participants) will be Dec. 10, following a couple rehearsals for the main characters. \*PLEASE make arrangements now to come to the dress rehearsal. Young children will have an age-appropriate expectation for rehearsing prior to the pageant. We encourage all children to participate in some way to deliver the Christmas Message to the congregation. Those interested in directing should speak to Rev. Ashley as soon as possible.

### **What's At Your Table? Children's Ministries Potluck Breakfast January 15, 2017 West Wing of the Plymouth Building**

Bring something special that your family enjoys for breakfast/brunch. Homemade is great.  
Sign up with Sunday School Teachers.

Volunteers will set up space on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 4pm.  
We will have breakfast—family style. Each table will have a host who leads the table in discussion & a devotion.

This day we focus on getting to each other better, which promotes the sacred community of Peace for which Martin Luther King Jr. lived and advocated.

## **Lenten Service Project**

**Kick off** on February 26, 2017

**Collection Day** on March 26, 2017

## **Incredible Auction**

Save the Date! April 1, 2017

## **Confirmation Sunday**

May 7, 2017 10 AM worship

## **Celebration Preparation Rehearsal**

Thursday, June 1 at 6 PM Sanctuary

## **Sunday School Celebration Worship**

June 4, 2017 10 AM Worship

Followed by a reception (Please help us with this.)

Material in this booklet is provided for your information and convenience by the Minister of Christian Education & Christian Education Committee.

## **FAITH FORMATION/CHRISTIAN EDU.**

### **CE MINISTER**

Rev. M. Ashley Grant

### **FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

Margie Ruggeri & Robin Lewis

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS SUPPORTING SS MINISTRIES**

Jen Pietrowski

Lydia Charron

Tracy Hoppock

Kyrah Moran

Mary Altieri

Andrea Rochniak  
Lisa Jurzyk  
Pete DeLucia  
Lori Stein

**Sunday School Teaching Teams  
(and growing!)**

**Nursery:** Wendy Gilbert, Mark Byers, Hannah Kresen,

**Pre-K:** Elizabeth Hiza, Nina Kienzle, Sarah Shugrue

**K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Jennifer Bihary, Tina Cerrone

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Sally Carter, Sarah Riedel

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Letty Corrado, Lorrie Quirk, Lydia Charron

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Esther Wilson, Michele Haramis, Lisa Jurzyk

## Calendar for 2016-2017

SS=Regular Sunday School

### AUGUST

28      Opening Day of Sunday School, SS

### SEPTEMBER

1      Safe Church Training

4      SS

9      First Friday Faith Formation Evening: 6:15 PM Dinner;  
7 PM Programs and game Night for kids

11     SS & Confirmation Information Mtg. 5pm, JPF & Sr. PF Kick-Off  
Potluck 6-8PM

18     SS

25     SS

## OCTOBER

- 2 All Ages World Communion Worship—Children participating!
- 7 First Friday Faith Formation Evening: 6:15 PM Dinner;  
7 PM Programs and game Night for kids
- 9 SS
- 12 Ben's Bells Fieldtrip
- 16 SS
- 23 Pledge Sunday & SS
- 30 SS

## NOVEMBER

- 4 First Friday Faith Formation Evening: 6:00 PM Dinner;  
7 PM Programs
- 6 SS & Bible Sunday for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders!
- 12 Fall Showcase Concert
- 13 SS
- 19 Infant & Toddler Church Playdate (Nursery) 10:30 AM
- 20 SS
- 23 Community Thanksgiving Service
- 27 SS (Advent Begins)

## DECEMBER

- 2 Lamplight Stroll & Caroling &  
Visit from Santa
- 4 SS
- 10 Saturday--Pageant Rehearsal
- 11 Pageant & White Gift Mission
- 18 SS & Candlelight Christmas

### Concert

- 24 4PM Christmas Eve Worship for Families; 7PM & 11PM  
Worship
- 25 Worship for All Ages at 10 AM; No SS (no 8 AM)
- 31 Penny Lane Concert

## JANUARY

- 1 All Ages Worship 10 AM (no 8 AM)
- 6 Twelfth Night
- 8 SS





- 15 What's At Your Table—Plymouth Building 9:55 AM
- 22 SS
- 29 SS

**FEBRUARY**

- 5 SS
- 12 SS
- 18-19 Rock-A-Thon JPF
- 19 SS
- 26 SS
- 28 Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper

**MARCH**

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 5 SS
- 11 Jolly Beggars & Parade
- 12 SS
- 19 SS
- 26 SS

**APRIL**

- 1 Incredible Auction
- 2 SS
- 9 SS & Palm Sunday
- 13 Maundy Thursday Service
- 14 Good Friday 10 AM
- 16 Easter Services; Egg Hunt; No Sunday School
- 23 SS
- 29 Spring Showcase Concert
- 30 SS

**MAY** (one Sunday, we will meet to get ready for Celebration Sunday!) TBA

- 7 Confirmation Sunday (SS for 3rd Grade & younger)
- 14 SS
- 21 SS
- 28 SS

**FIELD TRIPS &  
LENTEN PROJECT:**  
We have some neat plans in the works for adventures & a spiritual discipline of kindness for Lent 2017. We need some parent helpers to join in the planning and organizing and most of all the FUN! Thanks for speaking with Margie Ruggeri or Ashley Grant

## JUNE

- 1 Thursday evening SS Celebration Worship Rehearsal 6 PM
- 4 10 AM Sunday School Celebration Worship (No 8 AM Service)

JUNE –AUGUST Summer Kids' Programs & Other Activities

## Sunday Morning Information

Children gather in the Sanctuary each Sunday by 10AM with parents. Children leave for Sunday School at a designated time indicated in the bulletin and usually announced. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger leave through the Narthex for their classrooms downstairs. Children in 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades leave through the chancel doors for classrooms in the Library (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>) or Parlor (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>).

After worship, parents of children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger should meet their children in their classroom **before** going to coffee hour. Parents of children in 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade can meet their children in their Sunday School room or in Fellowship Hall **immediately** following worship.

Part of deepening our faith involves stewardship of our **resources**. Each Sunday, children will participate in *keeping their classrooms tidy*. They will have a chance to *give a monetary offering* during class. And they will have several opportunities to share in their time and service.

## Volunteers

Each of our ministries always welcomes and needs your help. Speak with the nursery attendants, Mark Byers and Wendy Gilbert about helping with those sweet little ones in the nursery. Speak with Rev. Ashley or a teacher about helping with Sunday School. Speak with Rev. Ashley about helping with Junior Pilgrim Fellowship or Senior Pilgrim Fellowship.

## Online Directory

Keep your information up to date on the church's online directory. If you would like to schedule your Directory Picture Photo Shoot, please contact Robin Lewis for next appointments.



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