

PILGRIM  
CHURCH



Church School

**Pilgrim Church UCC**

25 South Main Street  
Sherborn, Massachusetts

508-655-1667

[www.pilgrimsherborn.org](http://www.pilgrimsherborn.org)



**Family Guide to  
Church School**



sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
 Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Grade Six Hebrew (Old) Testament Books of the Bible**

Genesis	I and II Kings	Song of Solomon	Obadiah
Exodus	I and II Chronicles	Isaiah	Jonah
Leviticus	Ezra	Jeremiah	Micah
Numbers	Nehemiah	Lamentations	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Esther	Ezekiel	Habakkuk
Joshua	Job	Daniel	Zephaniah
Judges	Psalms	Hosea	Haggai
Ruth	Proverbs	Joel	Zechariah
I and II Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Amos	Malachi

**Grade Seven New Testament Books of the Bible**

Matthew	Ephesians	James
Mark	Philippians	I and II Peter
Luke	Colossians	I, II and III John
John	I and II Thessalonians	Jude
Acts	I and II Timothy	Revelation
Romans	Titus	
I and II Corinthians	Philemon	
Galatians	Hebrews	

## Welcome to Church School

Our Sunday morning church school is grounded in the Great Commandment: to love God and our neighbors. Its instructional purpose is to provide opportunities to children, age three through eighth grade, for growth in faith and service to others. The church school's program reflects the goals of information, formation and transformation. Information that explores the essential stories of the Bible and our Christian faith. Formation of compassionate and responsible Christian discipleship. And transformation of lives through maturing faith.

Your child attends the same grade-level church school class as he/she does during the week.

### SCHEDULE OF A TYPICAL SUNDAY MORNING

(First Sunday after Labor Day through second Sunday in June)

10:00am	Worship begins, children and adults together in the sanctuary
10:15	Children gather with Pastor John for <i>Children's Time</i>
10:25	Children leave sanctuary for church school
10:30-11:20	Church school class time

### QUESTIONS?

Just ask the Co-Directors of Christian Education....

Corey Lincoln and Jane Raithe  
 508-655-1667 ext. 12 or 18  
 ce@pilgrimsherborn.org

## **ACOLYTES**

Third graders who have received their Bibles and fourth graders serve each Sunday as the acolyte for the 10am worship service. Their responsibility is to bring God's light into the sanctuary and light the candles on the Lord's Table, then extinguish the candles at the end of the service and take God's light out into the world. Training done on Bible Sunday and other times as needed. Your child should wear reliable shoes. Haven't lost an acolyte yet.

## **ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION**

Christianity in the congregational tradition is not practiced in isolation; it's experienced together in worship and learning with the whole people of God. Showing up is an important value. We recognize strong church school attendance at the year-end *Pancake Breakfast* to hold up those students who have attended faithfully over the program year. Please let us know if custodial arrangements limit your child's availability and we will make the appropriate adjustment in calculating attendance.

## **BIBLE SUNDAY**

A *Children's Bible* (New Revised Standard Version) is presented to each third grader on Bible Sunday in the autumn. Third-grade parents should forward to the CE directors the correct spelling of their child's first, middle and last names as they should appear on the Bible's cover.

## **BIBLE MEMORIZATION (Learn by Heart)**

We ask each student, first grade and older, to learn by

His steadfast love endures forever,  
And his faithfulness to all generations.

### **Grade Four      *The Ten Commandments***

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **Grade Five      *The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11)***

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'

**Grade Two     *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm***

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my  
soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I  
fear no evil;  
For you are with me; your rod and your staff –  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of  
my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my  
whole life long.

**Grade Three     *The 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm***

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
Come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
And his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

heart a grade-level Bible verse. The verses include the core texts of our Protestant Christian faith. In class, teacher and students review vocabulary, talk about meaning, and consider how that verse might apply to their lives. Parents can help with reinforcement at home; for instance, by using the verse as a table grace or good-night prayer. Students who learn their verse by heart are recognized at the end-of-year *Pancake Breakfast*. The verses are:

Grade One	The Lord's Prayer
Grade Two	The 23 <sup>rd</sup> Psalm
Grade Three	The 100 <sup>th</sup> Psalm
Grade Four	The Ten Commandments
Grade Five	The Beatitudes
Grade Six	Books of the Old Testament
Grade Seven	Books of the New Testament

*(complete text of each verse in appendix)*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Our church, in the congregational tradition, is governed by its members. The Christian Education Committee oversees the nursery, church school, youth fellowship, adult education and other programs of Christian formation. Please speak to the CE Directors or the Director of Congregational Ministry if you are interested in serving on this committee.

**CHURCH SCHOOL FRIEND**

A Church School Friend is present each Sunday morning to pick up and deliver snack to the classrooms, escort children to the rest rooms, make extra photocopies, and generally pinch hit as necessary. Great opportunity for a new member to get

an inside look at church school. Sign up in March for the following program year.

### **CHRISTMAS TABLEAU**

Our re-telling of the Nativity story at the close of regular worship on the Sunday preceding Christmas is a long-standing tradition at Pilgrim Church. All church school students may participate whether or not they attend the rehearsal (Sunday before the *Tableau*). Roles are assigned by grade, no lines to learn, and costumes are supplied by the church. Low stress. Deep meaning.

PreKindergarten	Stars
Kindergarten/Grades One and Two	Animals or Angels
Grades Three and Four	Shepherds
Grade Five	Wise Persons
Grade Six	Narrators

Mary and Joseph are played by Fifth Graders with the best church school attendance (September through December) that year. Baby Jesus is the youngest baby in the congregation whose parents have nerves of steel.

### **COMMUNION**

Communion is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. On those Sundays students go directly to their classrooms as soon as they arrive at church, not to the sanctuary. Because Pilgrim Church invites all who wish to share in communion to do so, regardless of age, church school children return to the sanctuary to participate in communion with their families at least four times a year.

cancelled when the governor declares a weather emergency. Otherwise, worship is seldom cancelled. Church school, however, is more likely to be cancelled during severe weather because it cannot operate without teachers who may be weather bound at home. All church school families will be e-mailed on Saturday evening or Sunday morning if classes are cancelled. We want our teachers and students to always be safe.

### **YOUTH SUNDAY**

The end of the program year is marked by Youth Sunday on the first Sunday in June. Church school students remain in the sanctuary for the full 10am service. All children receive a red flowering plant in observance of Pentecost. A joyful, all-ages service.

#### *Appendix*

### **Learn by Heart Bible Verses**

#### **Grade One     *The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)***

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

usher, and a high school student serves as lay leader. Please encourage your child to volunteer to serve. Directions will be e-mailed to your home.

### **SNACK**

Each grade practices courteous behavior and experiences fellowship during class by sharing a snack, usually a few donut holes and chilled water. Pretzels are included for those who wish them. Classes also do cooking projects on occasion as part of their lesson plan. Be certain to let us know on your registration form if your child has a food allergy.

### **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

All-ages, informal summer worship begins at 9am from the third week in June through Labor Day. Church school does not meet. Supervised activities and play are available for children ages three through seven. Nursery is open.

### **TEACHERS**

In the congregational tradition, we ask the whole church – parents, high schoolers, empty nesters, adult friends, etc. – to participate in the educational ministry of Pilgrim Church. Teachers spend six weeks with one class to share experiences as seekers of faith. Easy-to-use curriculum. Training, resources, supplies, advice and encouragement are always available. First-time teachers can be paired with an experienced mentor. Sign up in March for the following program year.

### **WEATHER CANCELLATION**

Both worship and church school are automatically

### **CURRICULA**

*Seasons of the Spirit* (PreKindergarten through Grade Six classes) – a United Church of Christ sponsored curriculum, based on the Bible lectionary, which helps students make connections between church and home, faith and life.

*Reel to Real* (Grade Seven/Eight class) – a film-based curriculum that examines moral themes and values of mainstream movies from a Christian viewpoint.

### **DISCIPLINE**

We expect our students to bring their best behavior to church and to be respectful of their classmates and volunteer teachers. If a problem should arise which cannot be addressed in the classroom, a student will be sent for a boring chat with a CE director. If the problem continues, we will contact the student's parents. If the problem is still not resolved, the child will be asked to take a brief sabbatical from church school.

### **DISMISSAL**

The regular worship service usually ends around 11am. Church school runs until 11:20am. Parents of students on the first floor – PreKindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade One – should come to the classroom to pick up their children. Students on the second floor – Grades Two through Seven/Eight – are released to meet their families in Fellowship Hall. We ask parents to respect the volunteer teacher's lesson plan and not to interrupt class for early release unless absolutely necessary.

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL**

As part of Pilgrim's Safe Church Policy, we hold an un-announced emergency evacuation drill each year. Students and nursery children will exit the building with their teachers/nursery assistants, pause in the front grassy semi-circle for an official confirmation of head count, and then meet their parents in the large parking lot on the far side of Main Street (Route 27). Do not attempt to reach your children until they are released in the far parking lot.

## **MISSION PROJECTS**

Our church has a strong mission outreach program and our church school students are eager participants. We have a strong bias for hands-on projects rather than simply asking for cash donations. Tell us if you know of a worthwhile service opportunity that can be accomplished during church school or if you would like to help with something already in the schedule.

## **NURSERY**

Our nursery, for infants through thirty-six months, is staffed by an adult child care professional and high school student assistants from the congregation. Infants should arrive in a baby carrier. Diapers will be changed if necessary. The nursery is open from 9am-12 noon on regular Sundays.

## **OFFERING**

We ask church school students to bring their offering forward for *Children's Time*. Check with a CE director if you would like a box of undated offering envelopes for each of your children to help them develop as good stewards.

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

On the last Sunday of 10am worship in June (usually the second Sunday), students begin worship with their families in the sanctuary and then go down to Fellowship Hall for a Pancake Breakfast. All teachers from the program year are also invited. Dads flip the pancakes. Students who had outstanding attendance and/or learned their Bible verse by heart are recognized. The aroma drifts up to the sanctuary and tantalizes worshippers.

## **PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASS**

This church school class is for children who have graduated from the nursery but are not yet attending kindergarten. If your child turns three during the program year, you may opt to immediately switch into the PreKindergarten class or wait until the following September. The PreK class follows a curriculum; the nursery does not. We recommend that any child who attends nursery school move into the PreK church school class immediately.

## **REGISTRATION**

We ask families to register their children for church school (Nursery through Grade Eight) every year. You may do so on Welcoming Sunday, the first Sunday after Labor Day, in Fellowship Hall, or any time in the Christian Education office.

## **SECOND SUNDAYS**

Church school students and youth serve as worship leaders on the second Sunday of each month – fifth and sixth graders greet, seventh and eighth graders