

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SOUTHBOROUGH

Mission Statement of the First Community Church:

*“We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer
and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life
and share the love of God with others”*

We are a nondenominational Christian church with Congregational (United Church of Christ) and Methodist roots. Our parishioners come from many different religious backgrounds and traditions. The children in our church school also come from a variety of backgrounds. Some come with little knowledge of the basic elements of our Christian faith and tradition. This means that wherever your child is in his/her faith journey, there is a place for him/her in our church school.

In addition to our size, which allows us a level of intimacy, community, and individualized teaching that is not possible in larger churches, our strongest asset is our teachers. Our church school teachers are people of faith who witness to the truths which they teach.

We want church school to be an engaging, informative and especially an enjoyable experience for your child. While knowledge is important, we believe it is even more important for your child to have good feelings about God, Jesus, the church, our church, the other children and themselves. We have fun and social activities planned for the children throughout the year.

The curriculum for the Sunday morning classes (K-6th grade) is Bible-centered. When a child becomes a member of our church school, he/she is given a copy of *The Children's Bible*. If the child is in junior high or high school, he/she is also given a copy of *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, the translation we use in worship and adult Bible study. We adapt the Bible lessons to the child's level of cognitive development, always seeking to make the lessons applicable to their lives.

We supplement the lessons in the Children's Bible with resources from other church school curricula, e.g., BibleQuest, which was designed as a collaborative effort of several Protestant denominations. We also utilize a full range of multimedia, e.g., individualized computer software and our DVD/video library to supplement the lessons. The church school calendar, which is organized around the seasons and holidays of the church year, emphasizes the history, traditions, and deeper meaning of Jewish and Christian holidays.

The Pastor's class, which is comprised of junior high and high school children, meets Tuesday evenings. We go into more depth concerning Christian beliefs and theology, the history of the Christian church, the Bible, and the Christian way of life. We study one of the synoptic gospels in depth every year. We also study other religious traditions. This class leads toward confirmation, the decision to become a member of the church, which usually happens during the sophomore or junior year in high school. The primary curriculum we use for this class is *My Confirmation*, a confirmation resource published by the United Church of Christ.

We welcome you and your child(ren) as part of our church! Please let us know if you would like to teach, help with the church school, or if you have some special talent you can share with us.

Faithfully yours,
The Christian Education Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULES

Sunday morning church school and the Pastor's Class begin on Rally Day, which is usually the second Sunday in September.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY morning 10:45 – 12:00 noon

Nursery Room	(birth – age 3) available during Sunday worship
Kindergarten	(age 4-5)
Grades 1-3	
Grades 4-6	

TUESDAY evening 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Pastor's Class	(grades 7-12)
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ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Study - SUNDAY morning 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Chain – 1st SUNDAY from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Book Study – THURSDAY evenings 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.