
MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Children in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade will be invited to rehearse and sing together in Sunday services. Rehearsals will be announced in the weekly Witness. *For more information contact the church office office@fcsuffield.org*

CHANCEL CHOIR Whether you have experience or have never sung in a choir before, your voice would be a wonderful addition to this ensemble for adults and high school students. Your participation need not be a long-term commitment - come once and see what it's all about! Rehearsals are **Wednesdays from 7-8 PM**. *For more information contact the church office office@fcsuffield.org*

HANDBELL CHOIRS Middle and High School students are welcome to join our Campanelli Handbell Choir! Rehearsal times will be scheduled off of interest and participants. There will be chime and mallet opportunities for our youngest kids throughout the year. Adults may join the Sonotori handbell choir. The group meets regularly on Monday nights from 7pm-8pm. *For more information contact the church office office@fcsuffield.org*



HANDS ON FAITH



HANDS ON FAITH is our fun, interactive, scripture based, missions oriented group for children Kindergarten through 6th grade.

On the **second and fourth Sunday** of each month we explore how to live out the Bible stories and connect them to hands-on mission activities. Children who participate in HOF will leave the church service during the sermon with two adult leaders.

Registration forms to participate in the HOF program can be found on the lobby bulletin board or by contacting the church office.

RENEWING OUR BAPTISMS (FORMERLY CONFIRMATION)

Youth in Grades 7 -12 are invited to join us on a 6 month journey of what it means to follow in the teachings of Jesus. It will be a hands-on experience with several opportunities to serve. At the end of the program, each individual will decide whether they want to choose the path of renewing their Baptism and following in the way of Jesus the Christ. Those who are not yet Baptized are also encouraged to attend and explore the sacrament of Baptism. There will be an opportunity to be Baptized at the end of the program. Please contact the church office with questions or to sign up office@fcsuffield.org

FAITHFUL FAMILIES

First Church of Christ Congregational
Suffield, Connecticut



“ Faith development does not occur in a vacuum, but rather is cultivated intentionally by a community of faith-filled people.”

C. Woolever and D. Bruce lead researchers
for U.S. Congregational Life Survey





INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP IS..

- * a time for the *entire* Body of Christ to worship together.
- * a time for both children and adults to learn about faith and praising God together through story, ritual, drama, singing, art, praying, giving, sharing, etc.
- * *children* learning about worship and God from the *adults* around them AND adults learning about worship and God from the children around them (Matthew 18:3).
- * an opportunity for children to acquire the “language” of worship in much the same way they learn their native tongue.
- * best learned by children through participation and observation.
- * the time for children to acquire the practices and memories that will keep them coming to church for the rest of their lives. [Studies show that 90-95% of the subconscious choices we make as adults are based on what we experience between the ages of 2 and 6]

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CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

At First Church of Christ Congregational we welcome and want our children in worship. We offer Worship Bags that contain activities for multiple ages. In the back of our Sanctuary there is a PRAY Ground with soft toys and additional activities children can play with in your pew or right there in the back of the church.



- ❖ Children learn best by doing and observing, so engaging them in worship and traditions/rituals of the church community is best “taught” through participation.
- ❖ A child’s sense of wonder is open to the concepts of God and miracles, etc.
- ❖ Children love rituals and repetition (worship, seasons of the church year, etc.)
- ❖ Children learn best using all five senses (Communion, Baptism, art, architecture, music/singing, dance, etc.)
- ❖ Children understand that things have meaning such as serving others and sharing meals together, as well as singing and praying in worship, etc.
- ❖ Children know when they are wanted and needed...and when they are not.
- ❖ Children acquire the “language” of worship and congregational life by listening to and observing the adults around them, especially when they feel welcomed and engaged.
- ❖ Children have an opportunity to build relationships with trusted adults other than their parents.

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