

What Every Child Should Experience

At the United Methodist Church of Berea, every child should experience loving kindness and grace within our community as they are introduced to God and new life in Jesus Christ. Our mission as a church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Children can, and are expected by the grace of God, to grow in their faith and become true disciples. In addition, we believe that God can and will transform the world, both now and in their future.

The below goals reflect our grace-inspired dreams for each child in our ministry. These goals are supported by the children's ministries of the church, but not possible without the support and dedication of parents and/or other family members. We believe that parents and other significant adults are the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith. Our church is here to support your efforts and goals as a Christian parent or parent figure.

The goals you will find in the following pages are also not possible without the full-inclusion of children in our church. Children are welcome in every worship service, every community gathering, and are encouraged to join in conversation with people of all ages. Children are by nature full of energy and enthusiasm, so we expect to hear them and see them. They are our joy and hope!

The first section of this document reflects goals that are "measurable" in that we know children are learning them by asking them about these skills. The second set reflects practices we hope children are familiar with. Both we believe can be seen by grade 5 with faithful participation of families and regular attendance in Sunday School and worship.

The last pages reflect the United Methodist Church's research and goals for faith formation by age. Here you will find helpful guidance for faith formation at home, and can learn more about what your child will experience at church. All children develop at different rates, so please let these be only a guide for your family's faith formation. If you would like pastoral guidance in considering next steps for your family's discipleship, either of our pastors would be happy to talk with you.

Children's/Parenting Formation:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
0-3	Nursery Care with lesson	Room 11	9, 10, 11:15 (9 and 10:30 summer)
4-12	Children's Choir	2 nd Floor	9:30
Preschool - 2 nd Grade	Sunday School – lower elementary	2 nd Floor	10 am
3 rd – 6 th Grade	Sunday School – upper elementary	2 nd Floor	10 am
Parents	Parent Support Group	2 nd Floor	10 am

10 Faith-Formation Goals by 5th Grade

1. Basic Biblical Navigation	Identify which books are from the Old Testament, Gospels, and New Testament. Be able to find each section.
2. Sacred nature and use of Scripture	Who wrote the Bible? How do we use the Bible? (reflection, prayer, instruction, learn from ancestors in faith)
3. Core Bible Stories	<p>Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creation • The Ten Commandments • The Shema • Numbers 6:24-26 • Ecclesiastes 3 • Jonah • Micah 6:8 • Psalms 8, 23, 100, 121 <p>New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Golden Rule • The Beatitudes • The Sermon on the Mount • The Lord's Prayer • The Great Commandment • The Great Commission • The Love Chapter • The Magnificat • The Fruit of the Spirit
4. Foundational Faith Statements & Prayers	Learn about Apostles Creed and the UM Social Creed. Learn and recite the Lord's Prayer.
5. Church Year and Lectionary Passages	Know the names of church seasons and what is celebrated. Follow lectionary passages as main curriculum.
6. Sacrament Formation	Formation around Holy Communion and Baptism.
7. Justice and Compassion Formation	Service projects introducing children to the needs of the world and the call to be in ministry with our community. Also learning from the Great Cloud of Witnesses.
8. Place of community in Faith Formation	Intentional intergenerational opportunities to experience a sense of community and connections to how this helps us grow in faith.
9. Methodist Heritage	Story of John Wesley, Love, Grace, Assurance, 3 Simple Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living.
10. Local Church Heritage	Our church's history

10 Spiritual Practices by 5th Grade

1. The practice of quiet	How to be still and listen for God, and empathetic listening
2. The practice of love	Sharing kindness, encouragement, and gratitude.
3. The practice of Bible-reading/study	Application and reflection on Scripture
4. The practice of prayer	The function of prayer – why pray? Multiple ways to pray.
5. The practice of worship	Difference between prayer and worship, how to worship in community and on their own.
6. The practice of community	Understanding that community experience is an important part of faith.
7. The practice of service	Understanding what service is and why we do it.
8. The practice of forgiveness	Understanding what forgiveness is and everyone's need for it
9. The practice of faith-sharing	Beginning understanding of what it means to share God's love and story.
10. The practice of theology	Learning how to look for God in daily life and talk about God's work and presence.

Rites of Passage

Rite of Passage/Sacrament	Age/Grade Level	Church Participation	Family Participation
Rose on the Alter	Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer in Worship with flower on alter. Meal support if desired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives book "Parenting with Love & Logic"
Baptism	Infancy & Beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacrament at church Follow-up Counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives Storybook Bible
Communion	1 st Grade *children may receive communion at ANY age, but this is the year formation will occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion Workshop – with parents Children participate in helping serve communion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "What is Communion?" pamphlet Family writes letter to their child
Bible Presentation	3 rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Bible Congregation shares favorite passages Sunday School support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives resource on how to do family Bible study Family writes letter to their child.
Confirmation	8 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation formation 7-8th grade, including retreats Pastoral Consultation Confirmation liturgy Presentation of Passport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "Parenting Teens with Love & Logic", Youth receive a youth study Bible Family writes letter to their youth.
Launching	12 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation begins in 9th grade – including tracking worship, formation, and service participation in a "Passport". Launching ceremony at church including Bible presentation. If remaining local, is encouraged to join a small group and a ministry team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family receives "The Power of Praying for your Adult Children" Young adult receives Adult Study Bible. Family writes "last" letter to their child.

2018/2019 Faith Formation Calendar

August 19th – Acolyte Formation, 3rd grade and older

September 9th - Rally Day – celebrating the beginning of the Faith Formation year
Please complete a new registration for each child/youth

October 14th – Bible Presentation, 3rd grade

November 11th – Communion Formation, 1st Grade

January 13th – Acolyte Formation, 3rd grade and older

Spring – Dates TBD – Love and Logic Parenting Course

May 19th – Confirmation, 8th Grade

June 9th – Launching, 12th Grade

Birth celebration and baptisms celebrated throughout the year by pastoral consultation.

Service Projects for elementary students occur quarterly.