

## Classroom Locations

<b>Nursery</b>	East end of Congregational Hall
<b>Toddlers/Beginners</b>	Off of Library towards Music Rm
<b>Pre-K</b>	Off of Library towards front of building
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Williams Room (closest to Guild Rm) ~ First floor Parish House
<b>Grade 1</b>	Williams Room ~ First floor Parish House
<b>Grade 2</b>	Second floor above the Church Offices
<b>Grade 3</b>	Youth & Arts Room
<b>Grade 4</b>	Congregational Hall (temporarily)
<b>Grade 5</b>	Barnes Community Room The Meetinghouse
<b>Grade 6</b>	The Meetinghouse
<b>Grade 7</b>	The Meetinghouse
<b>Grade 8</b>	The Meetinghouse

(Please look for signs and “guides” to help find your child’s classroom.)

**Church School Office:** Southeast corner of Congregational Hall

**Church Library** Second floor, Parish House

***The First Congregational Church***  
23 South Main Street  
Wallingford, Connecticut  
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Fax: 203-265-0693  
Email: firstchurchwlfld@snet.net

## The First Congregational Church Wallingford, Connecticut

### *Church School Handbook 2005-2006*

*As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you ...*

*John 15:9*



#### **Inside**

- *Church School Calendar*
- *The Teaching Staff*
- *Classroom Locations*
- *Everything you want to know about Church School but didn't have time to ask!*

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Dear Friends,



*Catch the Spirit!* It's more than just the name we give to the first Sunday after Labor Day, the start of our Church School year, and the beginning of our fall program activities. We hope you and your family will *catch the spirit* here every Sunday. Each September, as we welcome new families and welcome back returning ones, we give thanks for the variety of ways that the spirit is alive in our midst. We see and experience the spirit in the energy and enthusiasm of children and youth in our church school classes, children's choirs and youth activities. We give thanks for the creative spirit and talent shared by church school teachers, teaching assistants, youth leaders and volunteers.

This church school handbook provides some basic information that we hope will help you feel at home. This booklet also lets you know the schedule of special events, learning goals, church school offering and mission opportunities, as well as information about our youth ministry and music programs.

A few notes about the curricula that we use in our church school classes: Our church school curriculum for Pre-K through 4th grade is called *Bible Quest*, a colorful bible-story based program that introduces the stories of our faith with activities and approaches that reflect the many different ways children learn.

Our older church school classes (5th through 8th) will be using a curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*. Lessons center around the same lectionary scriptures that are used in the morning worship, providing opportunity for sharing around the family table or building themes and activities together for the whole church community.

Every season in the life of our congregation is truly a season of the spirit as we learn, sing, and share together, reaching out in love.

Peace,

Rev. Margaret Jay

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## Welcome to a New Church School Year

In order to help you feel a real part of our Church School Program this fall, we offer this handbook. It is intended to give you easy reference to important dates and times surrounding our program. Dates and times are subject to change. Children will be given notices to bring home in that event or when new events are planned. We look forward to hearing from you regarding questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Brian Meyer  
Church School Superintendent

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOOL STAFF

Church School Superintendent  
Brian Meyer

Church School Office Staff  
Charlie Filkins

Minister of Outreach and Program Development  
Rev. Margaret Jay

Ministry Associates for Youth and Christian Education  
Madeline Hendricks  
Sarah Fields

Board of Christian Education Chairperson  
Pam Perkowski

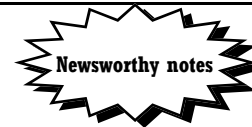
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## Church School Teaching Staff

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Term 1</u>	<u>Term 2</u>
Nursery:	Megan Perkowski	
Toddlers/ Beginners:	Helen Ewart & Kayleigh Thurlow	
Pre-K:	TBA	
Kindergarten:	Nicole Consiglio Danielle Consiglio	Nicole Consiglio Danielle Consiglio
Grade 1:	Tricia Pelletier	Tricia Pelletier
Grade 2:	Louise/Steve Fiondella	Louise/Steve Fiondella
Grade 3:	Sara Morris	
Grade 4:	Bruce Marquardt Michelle Stevens	Bruce Marquardt Michelle Stevens
Grade 5:	Christina Leffingwell	Christina Leffingwell
Grade 6:	Bob Johnson	Bob Johnson
Grade 7:	Pam Johnson	Pam Johnson
Grade 8:	Steve Perkowski	Steve Perkowski



Confirmation:	Margaret Jay Tony Corso	Margaret Jay Tony Corso
Superintendent:	Brian Meyer	



- Family Worship

Except for the first Sunday of each month, children are invited to worship with their parents for an opening portion of the worship service. After the Children's Sermon they go to their church school classes.

- Junior Worship

On the first Sunday of each month, starting October 5, your children will attend a Junior Worship Service with their classmates. Children should go to their classrooms before 10:00 a.m.

- Offering

Your children will be given Sunday Church School Offering Envelopes, as their introduction to stewardship in September. Offering will be accepted during the Junior Worship Service on the first Sunday of each month, and in the classrooms on the other Sundays of the month.

- Library

Please take advantage of our library located on the second floor of the parish house. It is full of exciting books chosen with church families in mind.

- Food Drive Collection

Donations of non-perishable food items for the Community Food Bank are gratefully accepted on the first Sunday of the month. These will be collected at the Junior Worship Service. Suggested foods for the Red Cross Food Bank include: Cereal, tuna fish, fruit juice, peanut butter, canned fruit, and dried milk.

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### MISSION PROJECTS:

The Church School supports the following mission projects: UNICEF, One Great Hour of Sharing, Holiday For Giving, Neighbors in Need, Covenant to Care, Box Project, the Wallingford Emergency Shelter, and The Heifer Project.

### ALLERGIES AND MEDICATIONS:

Please notify the teachers in writing if your child has any food allergies, special medication requirements, or health-related precautions, as soon as possible. Forms for this purpose are available in the church school classrooms.

### DISMISSAL:

Classes will end at 11:15 a.m.\* Please wait in Congregational Hall until that time and then proceed to the classrooms to greet your children. Children in second grade and younger will not be dismissed until picked up by a parent or guardian, *unless a note from the parent giving the child permission to leave alone or with a designated person is given to the teacher.*



\*The Nursery and Beginners classes will end at 11:00 a.m.

### FIELD TRIPS:

All Church School sponsored field trips will be monitored carefully by the Superintendent and his assistants. Permission slips and adult supervision rules will be enforced as directed by the Board of Christian Education, in order to insure a happy and safe journey. *Signed permission slips are required* for all participants. Field trip guidelines are available from the Superintendent.

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## Learning Goals

Parents are encouraged to support the Church School teachers by working with their children at home on the following learning goals:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Beginners    | - Graces  |
| Pre-K        | - Prayers, Graces   |
| Kindergarten | - The Lord's Prayer   |
| Grade 1      | - Gloria Patri (#513 Hymnal)<br>- The Lord's Prayer (review)            |
| Grade 2      | - Doxology (#515 Hymnal)  |
| Grade 3      | - Baptism<br>- Psalm 23 (King James Version)                            |
| Grade 4      | - Basic Bible skills<br>- Know 1st five books of Old and New Testaments |
| Grade 5      | - Ten Commandments<br>- Jesus' Commandments                             |
| Grade 6      | - Psalm 100 (KJV)   |
| Grade 7      | - Order of Worship  |
| Grade 8      | - Sacraments of the Church<br>- Liturgical Seasons                      |



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## Youth Groups



### Junior Youth Group for Grades 5, 6, 7

Our Junior Youth Fellowship Group is an active, fun and exciting part of the youth ministry program of The First Congregational Church. We are planning events that will combine fun, fellowship, food, fund-raising, service projects and discussions of today's issues. You are invited to share in a monthly dinner meeting which will be especially prepared for you by your fellow church members. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and *The Spire* for time and place. Ms. Sarah Fields, Ministry Associate for Youth and Christian Education; Junior Youth Group, and other adult advisors lead this program.

### Senior Youth Ministry for Grades 8-12

The Senior Youth Fellowship offers a model of youth ministry that provides a mix of fellowship, retreats, special events, fund-raising, and mission and service.

Our goals are to build Christian community together, to support our high school students as they embark on a healthy journey into the future, and to make a difference through the sharing of our time and talents. Ms. Madeline Hendricks, Ministry Associate for Youth and Christian Education and Rev. Margaret Jay will be leading the high school youth ministry program with the assistance of adult advisors.

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## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS:



Your children are encouraged to take part in this special kind of worship. The *Cherub Choir* (grades Pre-K, K, and 1st), the *Junior Choir* (grades 2-4), the *Pilgrim Choir* (grades 5-8), and the *Young Adult Choir* (teens and young adults) are under the direction of *Minister of Music*, Dr. Jeanette Gross.

- *Cherub Choir* (grades Pre-K—1) sings at the Family Christmas Eve Service, Easter and Mothers' Day. Rehearsals are held 11:30-11:50 a.m., after Sunday service, and will be announced at a later date. Watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin and *The Spire*.
- *Junior Choir* (grades 2-4) will meet on Mondays from 4:30-5:15 p.m., beginning September 12.
- *Pilgrim Choir* (grades 5-8) will also meet on Mondays from 5:15-6:15 p.m. starting September 12. The choirs will participate in the Sunday service on the fourth Sunday of each month.
- *Young Adult Choir* (teens and young adults) will meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. starting September 12. This is a new group that will be doing some worship events with the Senior Youth Group (Blessing of the Animals Service on October 2 at 3:00 p.m. and the Good Friday noon worship service on April 14, 2006).
- *Youth Handbell Choir* (grades 4-12) will meet on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. following the worship service — watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin.

### Musical Highlights

December 24:	<b>Christmas Eve:</b> 6:00 p.m. - Family Service 9:00 p.m. - Lessons & Carols
February 11 (10 a.m.)	Rehearsal for Epiphany Arts Musical
February 12 (10 a.m.)	<b>Epiphany Arts Musical</b>

## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

### TERM 1

<b>Sept.</b>	11	9:30 am	Meet on the Parade Ground
		10:00 am	Catch the Spirit Sunday
	18	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	25	10:00 am	Sanctuary
			Bible Presentations - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Oct.</b>	2	10:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	9	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	16	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	23	10:00 am	Sanctuary
			Bible Presentations—2nd Grade
	30	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>Nov.</b>	6	10:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	13	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	25	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	27	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>Dec.</b>	4	10:00 am	Junior Worship Service Advent Program
	11	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	18	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
		9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
		11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service
	25	10:00 am	Sanctuary



## CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR, cont.

### WINTER ARTS PROGRAM

<b>Jan.</b>	1	No Classes	
	8	10:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	15	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	22	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	29	10:00 am	Sanctuary
			
			TERM 2
<b>Feb.</b>	5	10:00 am	Junior Worship ice
	12	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	19	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	26	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>Mar.</b>	5	10:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	12	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	19	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	26	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>Apr.</b>	2	9:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	8	9:00 am	Palm Cross Breakfast
	9	10:00 am	Palm Sunday
	16	10:00 am	Easter Sunday — No Classes
	23	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	30	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>May</b>	7	9:00 am	Teacher's Breakfast
		10:00 am	Junior Worship Service
	14	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	21	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	28	10:00 am	Sanctuary
<b>June</b>	4	10:00 am	Sanctuary
	11	10:00 am	(Last day of Term 2 classes)