

Christian Education Program *for* Children and Youth



The
Scarsdale
Congregational
Church
UCC

Welcome to the SCC Church School!

*A place for children ages 3
years old through 8th grade.*

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Our Mission Statement:

At SCC we believe that children are an integral part of our church community.

Our Church School seeks to provide an accepting and supportive environment where children feel empowered to explore, develop, and practice their faith. Through age appropriate Bible study, involvement in worship and music, service opportunities, and fun activities, we strive to help children cultivate a meaningful and engaged spiritual identity.

'LOVE IN ACTION' DAYS

Our program encourages young people to practice kindness, service, and justice both within and outside the walls of our church community. We encourage the children to think about why people, or animals, or the planet, are suffering, and how are we called to respond.

Each year we produce a calendar for the year and if you look closely you will see certain Sundays designated as "Love in Action" Days. These are days where Church School focuses on what it means to put our faith into action by welcoming guest speakers and doing projects that benefit the local community. Through our love-in-action days we have addressed issues like food insecurity, animal rescue, refugees, bullying, affordable housing, and the climate crisis.

Also, each week the children are invited to bring in a jar of pasta sauce, or a non-perishable food item to place in the offering basket before the 'Time with Children.' The pasta sauce goes toward our commitment to the Scarsdale United Interfaith Food Bank. The canned and non-perishable food items are donated to the White Plains Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry. This is also one tangible way that your child can help share with our neighbors in need.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR!

Everything we do here at the SCC Church School is intended to be supportive of your own efforts to nurture your children in faith and in love. Here are some ways we can work well together:

- ◇ **TRY TO COME REGULARLY.** Worship begins at 10:00 AM. The first Sunday of the month we celebrate communion and invite the children to stay in worship. On all other Sundays children leave after 'Time with Children' for their Church School classes. Each lesson builds on previous lessons, so coming regularly is encouraged.
- ◇ **TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE LESSONS.** Your interest in what they are working on will encourage sharing. Please ask questions like: *"Tell me about your time in Church School today"* or *"What did you think about what your teacher said today?"* Answers may continue to unfold during the week.
- ◇ **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN "EXPERT"!** Remember, we are ALL on a spiritual journey. Ask questions, share your experience and points of view, wonder aloud *with* your children. Don't feel you need to know everything about the Bible to engage in a discussion. Be patient with yourself. Faith involves life-long learning and exploration.
- ◇ **PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER—WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Your involvement with the Church School is a great way to meet other SCC families and become involved with the wider community. Get to know the leaders of Christian Education. Look for ways to put your skills to good use!

CURRICULUM

The SCC Church School seeks to have an inclusive curriculum that explores the richness of the Bible, while also drawing connections to life experience and engaging the important social issues of today. An emphasis on love and our hope for the building of a beloved community is at the core of everything we do. During Church School children meet in classes based on age. After classes we meet for Children's Gathering time each week, for the sharing of joys and concerns.

ADVENT

At the end of November, we turn our focus to our Advent rotation program—each week children do activities to celebrate the hope, peace, joy and love of the season. During Advent we prepare for Christmas through our Advent Calendar making and by recalling the story of Jesus' birth through our Christmas Pageant.

SPRING/EASTER

On Easter Sunday we will boldly proclaim God's promise of love. And beginning in April we prepare for our Children's Sunday celebration, held on the first Sunday in June.

OLDER YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Confirmation Class (8th-9th Grade): Christian Education is a lifelong journey. The curriculum outlined here will be taught to children K-7th grade. 8th and 9th graders are invited to participate in a weekly Confirmation Class, to deepen their faith formation, from October through May. Any 8th or 9th grader with an interest in our Confirmation Class is welcome to join us.

The Youth Action Committee (8th-12th Grade): Our high school students continue to participate in the life of the church as members of the Youth Action Committee (YAC) and as teachers or assistants in the Church School. YAC organizes service projects and community outreach efforts, including our March Midnight Run. Every other year, members of the *Youth Action Committee* and some of their friends take a service trip during Spring vacation; for more than a decade we have spent a service week on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



