



AGES ELEVEN - FIFTEEN

Confirmation is the formal way youth become church members.

Ordinarily, classes are held annually for seventh grade students. The Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and

Apostles' Creed form the heart of Confirmation curriculum taught by an elder or member of the CE Committee. Each youth is paired with a mentor who is chosen from the session. Parents will be notified when classes are offered, usually in the spring of the year, with Confirmation held in late May. As Active Members, confirmed youth are entitled to vote in meetings of the congregation and hold office if elected.



Middle and High School PYC is provided for 6th-12th graders under the supervision of the Christian Education Committee, volunteers, and staff. *Presbyterian Youth*

Connection is a ministry in addition to Sunday School which meet regularly each Sunday. Parents are asked to strongly encourage youth to attend both Sunday School and PYC.

Our ministry with youth emphasizes that they are not only the future of the church, but also the *NOW* of the church. Youth are encouraged to participate fully in congregational life, including committee and other forms of service. Additionally, youth head up their own individual service projects, as well as providing support to the church's Coffee Club Christmas Party and other projects. From 6th – 12th grade, our young people are called to use their spiritual gifts to make a difference. In honoring our baptismal vows, the church is obligated to support them in discovering where they are called.



COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS

Christian nurture extends beyond high school through *Care Packages* sent by the Presbyterian Women to students attending college. Students are encouraged to stay in touch through the Church Newsletter, now available online.

Welcome Home events are held each Christmas. Upon graduation, whether students are moving back home or to a new community, GSPC will assist in any way it can to help young adults continue their Christian calling and life of discipleship in Christ's church.



Questions? Call or write:

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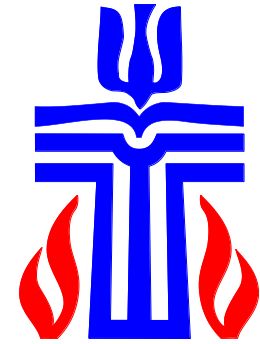
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A Guide for Parents



Nurturing the
Children and
Youth of
Government Street
Presbyterian
Church

Government Street Presbyterian Church supports families through child care, classroom learning, youth ministries, congregational life, and pastoral care. When children are baptized, the congregation promises to “nurture the baptized person in the Christian life.” The session, staff, and members of Government Street Presbyterian Church are committed to that baptismal promise understanding that God creates each child with special gifts and needs. Because children develop differently, these guidelines are offered in the spirit of *general rules*. Parents are encouraged to check with staff or members of the Christian Education Committee when needs or questions arise regarding Christian nurture.



BIRTH - SIX MONTHS

Baptism is a sign of God’s gift of grace to believers and their children. It marks entry into Christ’s church and is received only once. Parents are encouraged to have their children baptized “without undue delay, but without undue haste.” Ordinarily, infants are baptized between age six weeks and six months but may be baptized at any age. To schedule your child’s baptism, please see the Pastor. Baptisms may be scheduled most Sundays except Christmas and Easter.

SIX MONTHS - TWO YEARS

Childcare is provided by supervised staff and volunteers during Church School, Sunday Morning Worship, special services, and for programs involving the congregation as a whole. Children under two should remain in the nursery for the duration of Morning Worship. While children are in the nursery, parents may request a silent call beeper to be alerted if needed in the nursery. To obtain a beeper, simply ask for one from a nursery caregiver.



AGES THREE - SIX



Between ages two and three, children should begin attending worship with their parents. By age three, they should remain in worship through the Children’s Sermon. Following the Children’s Sermon, adult volunteers will escort the children to Children’s Church intended for children ages 3-6.

Child care is available for infants to 3 year olds during the Sunday School hour so parents may attend adult classes from 9:30-10:30. When children celebrate their fourth

birthday they should be enrolled in Sunday School. Graded classes featuring hands on learning through the *Walk With Me Curriculum* are offered each Sunday. Parents are asked to encourage and insure their child’s regular attendance.

AGES SIX - TEN



Education is a vital element of Christian nurture The Christian Education year begins with *Rally Day*, usually observed in late August or early September to coincide with the return of public and private schools.

Educational opportunities are also offered during the summer. *Vacation Bible School* for children age four through 5th grade takes place at the beginning of June. The week of Vacation Bible School offers crafts, games, music, and stories to engage our children in Christian growth.



When children enter the 2nd grade they begin preparations for their *First Communion*. Each Fall, a *Children at the Lord’s Table* class is taught for second graders during Children’s Church. Through games, songs, and activities, children explore the how’s and why’s of Presbyterian worship and the meaning of the sacrament. Children are welcomed to the Lord’s Table on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. Since baptism is a requirement for admission to the Lord’s Table, children who were not baptized as infants are baptized on the day of their First Communion. Once children are received at the Lord’s Table, they should remain in worship with their parents for the entire hour.