

Faith Development Program

Basic Information

Registration:

Children and Youth:

Registration begins on July 24, 2008. Sunday Classes begin August 17. Parents may register their students any Sunday morning between 8:30 and 12:00 or may email the DFD at faithdevelopment@riverofgrass.org. Visitors please fill out a visitor's form. We encourage all visitors to register after visiting two or three times.

Adults:

Registration depends on the individual classes. See class listings later in the bulletin or email the DFD for details.

On Sundays:

- We wish to make your child's attendance at Sunday School as enjoyable as possible. If your child is anxious we invite you to spend part or all of their first couple sessions with them.
- Parents leaving children in the Nursery the first few times are asked to sit near the rear of the sanctuary in case we need to contact you during worship.
- Our classes are an active, hands-on experience! Comfortable school or play clothes and sturdy shoes are important for full participation.

Attendance:

Students of all ages gain the most from our classes when they attend regularly. Regular attendance is essential for a number of reasons:

- Good attendance fosters a sense of community between the students themselves and between the students and the community at large.
- Good attendance sends our children the message that spirituality and faith are a priority, not to be replaced by other activities or sports when convenient.
- Good attendance allows students to build upon knowledge from previous lessons, creating valuable continuity between classes.

Behavior:

Children and Parents will be given our Behavior Guidelines to review and endorse upon registration. It is important for our children and youth to learn both self respect and respect for the rights of others. If a child has any special needs, we ask that parents discuss those needs with the Director of Faith Development prior to class so that teachers may be notified and the classroom can be adjusted as necessary.

For Our Parents

Our Faith Development Program is a cooperative one. You have enrolled your child in our program because you agree with our philosophy and want your child to have a liberal religious education. The responsibility for teaching and policymaking rests with our volunteers, who are supported by our DFD, our Minister and our Faith Development Committee. Therefore, we ask the following of parents who enroll children in our program:

- Parents are asked to make a major commitment of time. You can do this in several ways:
 - Teach Sunday School
 - Become a Youth Advisor
 - Become a Children's Fellowship Supervisor
 - Join the Faith Development Committee
 - Participate and Volunteer to help with Intergenerational Events
- Meet your child's teachers and spend some time discussing each class. This allows for better communication and helps increase the fellowship of our congregation.
- Discuss Sunday School with your child. Ask them what they did, what they learned, and how it made them feel. This increases the likelihood of the student remembering what they learned and helps them delve deeper into the subject matter.
- Help your student arrive on time and to attend regularly. Each member of the group is important!
- Encourage your child to use appropriate behavior in worship and in class.
- Parents should drop students younger than middle school off at class.
- Parents/Children sign our Behavior Expectations Form

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:30 Contemporary Family Worship: This service offers families a chance to worship together in a contemporary style designed to engage worshippers of all ages
- 10:00 Fellowship Time: Children leave the worship service and our Caregiver will escort them to the playground
- 10:30 First Service ends
- Children return from the playground and join their parents for Coffee Hour.
- 10:35 Faith Development teachers arrive to set up their classrooms and prepare their lessons
- 11:00 Second Service Begins
- Faith Development Classes for Children and Youth Begin
- 12:00 Second Service Ends
- Students in Faith Development Classes join their parents for Coffee Hour