



Haydenville Congregational Church UCC
Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry Programs
2016-2017 Program Year

**Rally Day & Children's, Youth, &
Family Ministries Registration**

Sunday, September 11th
Starting at 9:30 am in the Dining Room

Dear children, youth, and families of Haydenville Congregational Church,

Welcome to Haydenville Congregational Church's Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries Program! Whether you or your child are continuing from past years or you are new to us, we are excited about your participation, and we want you to know that your presence makes a huge difference in our faith community.

This year, our programs continue to build on the foundation laid by those that came before us, and we are adding in our own tweaks and new directions on our faith formation journey. Just like last year, there are some things that will remain the same, plus we will try out a few new things. For some details, please take a look at the "Parent and Guardian Information" sheet enclosed with this letter.

Our children will continue to be **divided into two groups on Sunday mornings**: Pre-K through 2nd Grade (Group 1), and 3rd through 5th Grade (Group 2). Like with this past year, each group will begin the class in their respective locations: Group 1 will meet upstairs in Children's Church, and Group 2 will meet in the Dining Room. The time together will start with some centering movement to help us focus on being present. At the close of the session, the two groups will join together upstairs to share Joys and Concerns and some food. There will be some joint lessons on special occasions.

Doing this all on my own would be an absolute impossibility. I am blessed to be working with the Children's and Family Ministry Committee, ably led by Andrew Geery. Currently, our committee is comprised of Andrew, Jen Miller-Antill, Karen Guiel, and me. We are eager to welcome new members who feel called to join us in the ongoing shaping and implementation of our ministry for and with our young people. While I will be present in the classrooms when we begin new lesson plan cycles (approximately every 6 weeks), the implementation of our Sunday morning programs will largely be in the very capable hands of our volunteer teachers - - which is also why we need strong volunteers to lead our programs.

**Children's Church
"Family Meeting"**

**September 18th after Worship
in the Sanctuary**

The Children's and Family Ministries Committee is hosting a "Family Meeting" in the Sanctuary after worship on September 18th. We will share our curriculum calendar and go over some thoughts about our covenant, policies, and practices. All children and their corresponding adults are encouraged to attend.

There is no way under the sun that we would be able to provide this vital ministry were it not for the generous work of our volunteers. Working with our young people often provides an inspiring and moving opportunity to witness faith and spirituality through the eyes of a child. I urge you to take a look at our Volunteer Opportunities information to see how you could be involved. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to support this ministry in whatever capacity they can: as teachers, lunch and snack providers, administrative task masters, financial contributors, youth group advisors, drivers, musicians and artists, or any number of essential roles.

There are several things we need you to do if you would like your child to be involved in our ministry programs:

1. Thoroughly read the "Parent & Guardian Information" document.
2. Complete the registration form and photo release.
3. Prayerfully consider the ways in which you could volunteer to support the programs.
4. Sign up to volunteer and complete the CORI application.
5. Communicate with Pastor Chris about any questions, concerns, or issues.
6. Pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17)

All of the forms mentioned above will be available on Rally Day (Sunday, September 11, 2016), on our website under the "Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries" program section, and in hardcopy outside of the Children's Church classroom on the second floor of the church.

This year, you will also have the opportunity to "renew" your registration forms from last year, saving yourself a little time. Last year's forms will be available at the registration table on Rally Day, and you can review them, make changes, and initial alongside your signature.

We will also be holding a **Children's Church Family Meeting following worship on September 18th**. This will be an opportunity for children and their adults to learn more about our programs and to collaborate on creating covenants for our classrooms. I urge you to hold this date on your calendar and attend this important gathering.

On behalf of the Children's and Family Ministries Committee, I welcome you to our vibrant, innovative, and ever-evolving programs for children, youth, and families. We sincerely hope that your child will grow in faith while engaged in our ministries, and that you will find a way to actively support all that we are doing. Thank you for being a vital part of nurturing our young people and traveling with them along their individual faith journeys.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me in person, by phone, or by email.

Peace & Blessings,



Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Associate Pastor

Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

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haydenvillechurch.org

Rev. Chris Mereschuk