



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

## **Parent & Guardian Information**

Thank you for being a part of our innovative and vital Children's and Youth Ministry Programs! This document contains some basic information we would like you to know.

*\*Please note that any forms referenced below are available in hardcopy outside of the Children's Church room on the second level, and on our website ([haydenvillechurch.org](http://haydenvillechurch.org)) by clicking on the "Children's Church" link. All completed forms may be submitted to Rev. Chris Mereschuk.*

### **Registration**

We request that all children and youth be registered to participate in our programs. This ensures that we have sufficient information about your child, and can keep you informed of all that is going on with our programs. Please complete a registration or visitor form as soon as you are able.

### **Safe Church Policy & Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Checks**

We are committed to ensuring a safe, nurturing environment and reducing the risk of abuse and neglect within our congregation. To that end, our congregation has created and adopted a Safe Church policy that addresses volunteer trainings, child-to-adult ratios, and classroom management. All volunteers are required to complete a CORI check prior to their classroom or program leadership.

### **Volunteer Opportunities: We need you!**

Our programs can only succeed with the generous leadership of volunteers. Some of our volunteer opportunities include:

- Head Teacher in Children's Church (Prepare and lead lesson)
- Support Teacher in Children's Church (Assist with lesson and classroom management)
- Lunch/Snack Coordinator
- Administrative Tasks
- Music, arts, special skills/gifts
- Youth Group Advisor and/or Chaperone
- Youth Classroom Assistant (6th grade and up assisting in younger classroom)

### **Children's Church**

On most Sundays during the worship service, our children will begin worship in the sanctuary, then leave for the classrooms after approximately 20 minutes. This year, there will be two classrooms divided by grade level.

- Pre-K through 2nd Grade will meet upstairs in the Children's Church room.
  - This group will use a mix of the Montessori-based "Godly Play" curriculum, along with a new curriculum - - "Whirl" - - by the publishers of "Holy Moly," plus lessons created by Haydenville Congregational Church.
- 3rd through 5th Grade will meet in the Dining Room.
  - This group will use a mix of the "Holy Moly" curriculum, along with a new curriculum - - "Whirl" - - by the publishers of "Holy Moly," plus lessons created by Haydenville Congregational Church.



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**Nursery**

Infants and toddlers (age 3 and under) are invited to stay in the nursery located on the second floor. The nursery is staffed by a paid attendant starting just before 10:00 am. Please complete the Children's and Youth Ministry Program registration form or the visitor form when dropping off your child.

Alternately, we have a carpeted "Baby Cry" area in the Narthex (Sanctuary lobby) stocked with stuffed animals and a few toys. The worship service can be heard through a speaker. Rocking chairs are also available in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please note that our nursery attendant cannot do diapering in accordance with our Safe Church policy. If your child requires a diaper change during the worship service, someone will come to find you in the Sanctuary. There is a fold down changing table in the larger bathroom in the Dining Room.

**\*Note for children in Children's Church and Nursery:** You or a designated individual must pick up your child at the close of worship following the Benediction. If you would like to go through the "Hug and Handshake Line," please first retrieve your child.

**Youth Fellowship Events**

For all youth in 6th through 12th grade, we will offer occasional gatherings, activities, and events. On Sunday mornings, youth are invited to remain in worship, or to volunteer as a Youth Classroom Assistant in the nursery or in the Pre-K through 2nd grade classroom. In this role, Youth Classroom Assistants support the work of the Head Teacher by engaging with the younger children.

**Future Possibilities**

Depending on interest, there are a handful of possible groups and events that may be added to our ministry programs. Please contact Pastor Chris and watch the announcements for upcoming offerings.

- Family Game Night
- Sunday Morning Class for 6th-8th Graders
- Confirmation Class for 8th-12th Graders

***For information, registration, and questions, please contact:***

**Rev. Chris Mereschuk**

Associate Pastor

Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

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