

2017-2018
CHURCH
SCHOOL
TEACHER
HANDBOOK

United Congregational Church of Tolland 45 Tolland Green Tolland, CT 06084

(860)875-4160

www.ucctolland.org

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Communication

Communication will primarily occur via email. This seems to be the most timely, efficient and cost-effective way to communicate. Please provide Kristen Gallagher, Acting Director of Church School kgallagher6@comcast.net with your email address. If you are not on-line or temporarily lose use of a computer/email, let her know and other arrangements can be made.

You will receive weekly “Teacher Notes” which will give information updates and logistical details. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO READ THESE EACH WEEK.** Print copies of “Teacher Notes” will be available upon request.

Teacher meetings will be held occasionally. Attendance at these meetings is encouraged, and will provide training to help better equip you to serve in your role as teacher. Topics will be published in advance so that if there is something you would find particularly helpful, you can make it a point to attend. If there are particular topics that would be helpful to you, please communicate that and every effort will be made to provide training and/or resources to meet your expressed need.

Protocol for Severe Weather for Church School

In the case of a severe weather event the Director will send an email to all Church School teachers, nursery caregivers and High School assistants (for whom she has an up-to-date email address, and provided there is power!) as to whether there *will* or *will not* be Church School that morning.

In the case of cancelation, the information will also be available by listening to radio station WTIC AM (1080) or by watching WFSB-TV Channel 3.

Even if Church School is not canceled, your safety is very important to us. We would not want you to drive on the roads if you felt unsafe doing so. In this case, you can reach Kristen that morning by calling or texting her (207)451-7461 to make her aware of your absence.

Absence/Need of substitute

Most classes are either co-taught. The hope is that you will work together to come up with a schedule that will suit each of you. If, however, a situation arises where the teachers are unable to cover for one another, please make every effort to find a substitute for yourself. There is a list of folks who are willing to substitute and often there are parents in the class who would be willing to step in for one week. If there is an emergency situation, then please get in touch with the Director to let her know that you have a need.

Illness

The church would like to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children and teachers. We know that the most effective way to protect people from the flu or other

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illnesses is to keep sick people away from healthy people. Therefore, we have adopted the same protocol Tolland Public Schools are following this year. It is this:

If a person has:

- Fever (100 degrees F) AND sore throat
- Fever AND cough
- Fever alone
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat with no fever
- New cough with no fever

He/she should remain at home until he/she is free of above symptoms for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Medical Concerns & First Aid

You will be provided with information regarding any children in your class who may have special medical concerns that you should be aware of. Please be sure to make note of this information, which will be written in red ink on the attendance sheet. Keep in mind that this information should only be shared on a need-to-know basis.

There is a First Aid kit located in the C.E. Office in the Barbara Phelps Christian Education Center. For minor cuts/scrapes, (using gloves) the teacher or H.S. assistant should cleanse the wound with soap and water, dry the wound and apply a band-aid. For more serious injuries/incidents, call 9-1-1. You may use your personal cell phone or use the telephone available in the C.E. office. In addition, the church has an AED located in the hallway outside of the main church office. Training will be made available for all teachers in the use of the AED.

Snacks

The only classes who will have weekly snack will be the 3 & 4 year-old class. The 45 minute class time is better spent on the content of the lessons. If there are special times you wish to include snack, such as when it ties in with the lesson, or in celebration of a holiday, then that is OK. You need to ensure that any child(ren) with allergies will be safe.

Registration Procedures

Each child in your classroom needs to have a registration form completed by his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). You will know the child is registered if the name appears on your attendance list. After September, if a child arrives for class and his/her name is not on the attendance list, then please give the parent a copy of our registration form (available in your attendance folder) or refer parents to our on-line registration form, which can be found on the church website www.ucctolland.org. Children visiting for the day will be asked to fill out a visitor form, if possible. These forms can be found in your attendance folder.

Church School Fire Drill Procedures

UPON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Quickly and quietly line up single file at the door that leads directly outside. *For the two classrooms that do not have a direct exit to the outside of the building, students will line up single file at the door to the hallway.*
2. Turn the lights off.
3. Take a head count, and bring attendance folder along prior to exiting. If the attendance folders have already been collected, the Director will bring them to the outside meeting spot.
4. Walk quickly (DO NOT RUN) to exit the building, and proceed through the nearest parking lot to the fenced-in grassy area between the church and the Tolland Public Library. *For the two classrooms that do not have a direct exit to the outside of the building, students will first proceed down the hallway to the nearest door to the outside of the building, then follow instructions above for #3.*
5. Stand quietly as a class. Count each student and High School assistant to be sure all your class members are present. Double check this against your attendance sheet. If the attendance folder has already been collected, it will be brought to you.
6. Wait for the signal to return to your classroom

Classroom Environment / Room Sharing

Nearly all of the classrooms are shared with either the Tolland Green Learning Center or the Tolland Cooperative Pre-school. Being aware of this, we need to respect the space, furniture, equipment, toys, the content of any closets, bulletin boards, etc. If there is anything that is turned around or covered with a blanket/sheet, this indicates that those items would be off limits to the Church School children. Please communicate this to your High School assistants, the children and their parents. If there are uncovered items that your children do use, please be sure to completely put the items back to the way they were found. It is our goal to leave the room just as we found it, or neater. The only space we use permanently in the shared classrooms is a spot for supplies in the closet, and one bulletin board. You are encouraged to use a bulletin board to display your class covenant, and the appropriate posters and other visual learning tools. It is important to make the children feel welcome in the space, so we hope you will consider that as well when planning lessons.

Clean up procedures

- Please take the time to return all supplies to the supply bin or to the shared supply closet. Report any items that need to be replaced/replenished. There is a piece of paper hanging on the wall in the room to list such items.
- If there was an art project, the tables should be cleaned of crayon, markers, glue, etc. There are both Windex and paper towels in the CE office.
- The floor should be swept of any obvious debris. There should be a broom/dust pan in your classroom, but there are extras in the closet of the CE office.

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- The garbage should be emptied if the bag is full or if there is food waste. There should be a liner in the bottom of the garbage bin, and if not, there are extras in the closet of the CE office. The full garbage bag may be placed in the hallway to be picked up and put in the dumpster.
- Please be sure doors and windows are closed tightly.

Policies and Procedures for a Safe Church

We want to provide the safest program for children, and we want to protect those persons working with children. Therefore, we will follow the policies and procedures outlined in a document we refer to as our “Safe Conduct Policy”. Copies of this policy are available in the Reading Room office and under “Teacher Corner” on the church’s website under “Learn and Serve”. If you wish to have a personal copy, one will be made available to you upon request. Part of the training on the content of these policies and procedures will take place at the Safe Conduct training on **Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 8:45am** in the 7th grade classroom and will be reviewed annually.

Each teacher and High School Assistant must complete a Volunteer Screening form. This form is to be filled out by anyone in a volunteer role who works with children or vulnerable adults.

Below are sections of the Code of Conduct as it relates to your role as a volunteer in the nursery.

Code of Conduct

SECTION 1:

Section 1 of this **Code of Conduct** defines individual responsibilities as ministers, employees or volunteers, to meet the expectations of UCCT with respect to behavior or conduct in the service of the ministries of the church, especially those which serve “at risk” populations (children and vulnerable adults).

General Requirements

Each person subject to this Code shall:

1. Act as a team member in fulfilling ministry objectives
2. Treat children and vulnerable adults with respect, and fairly without regard to race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or mental capacity
3. Practice those behaviors we regard as necessary and positive as well as to refrain from those behaviors which have been defined as prohibited
4. Recognize circumstances of sexual harassment and the obligation and means to report to church leadership
5. Demonstrate appropriate physical contact and verbal interaction (further defined below)
6. Understand how, by their action or inaction, they individually pose a risk to the church in the form of legal liability or loss of reputation

General Prohibitions

The following behaviors are prohibited at all times:

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1. Abuse of children or vulnerable adults in any way including, but not limited to, physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, financial or by neglect
2. Dating or becoming romantically involved with children
3. Use of or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or medications that impair judgement or reactions in the presence of children
4. Possession of sexually oriented materials, including printed or online pornography, on Church property
5. Having secrets with children or vulnerable adults
6. Staring at or commenting on the bodies of children or vulnerable adults
7. Engagement in inappropriate or unapproved electronic communication with children or vulnerable adults
8. Working one-on-one with children in a private setting
9. Permitting children to engage in the following: hazing, bullying, derogatory name calling, games of Truth or Dare, ridicule, humiliation, sexual activity, or abuse of any kind
10. Manipulating or exploiting a child or vulnerable adult in any way
11. Engaging in any form of sexual harassment or sexual exploitation
12. Having or allowing inappropriate verbal interaction or physical contact

Specific Interaction Standards

Each minister, employee or volunteer of UCCT shall conduct him/herself in a manner that fosters understanding of Safe Conduct in the context of serving children and vulnerable adults. The standards articulated below serve two purposes:

- To protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or grooming for abuse elsewhere
- To protect/prevent ministers, employees or volunteers, from engaging in patterns of behavior that may be construed as abusive or predatory

1. **Physical Interactions** – In providing approval or affection, the following guidelines apply:

The items of conduct shown in the guidelines as appropriate or inappropriate are examples only, not all-inclusive lists.

<i>Appropriate Physical Interactions</i>	<i>Inappropriate Physical Interactions</i>
<p>These may be inappropriate if unwanted by the child, vulnerable adult, employee or volunteer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pats on the shoulder or back • Handshakes or high fives • Arms around shoulders • Holding hands (with young children in escorting situations) <p>While these examples are generally appropriate, any physical interaction may be inappropriate if unwanted by the recipient or</p>	<p>Any form of affection that is unwanted by the child, vulnerable adult, employee or volunteer, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestive hugs • Kisses • Wrestling • Tickling • Touching bottom, chest, or genital areas (except for toilet hygiene dependent on a individual's age or special needs) <p>While these are examples of inappropriate interactions, any physical interaction is inappropriate if unwanted by the recipient or the minister, employee or volunteer.</p>

the minister, employee or volunteer.	
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2. **Verbal Interactions** – The manner of speaking with children establishes respect. The following guidelines apply:

The items of conduct shown in the guidelines as appropriate or inappropriate are examples only, not all-inclusive lists.

<i>Appropriate Verbal Interactions</i>	<i>Inappropriate Verbal Interactions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive reinforcement • Appropriate jokes • Encouragement • Praise <p>While these examples are generally appropriate, any verbal interaction may be inappropriate if unwanted by the recipient or the minister, employee or volunteer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name-calling • Compliments related to physique or body development • Discussing sexual encounters or in any way involving children or vulnerable adults in the personal problems or issues of employees and volunteers • Secrets • Cursing • Off-color or sexual jokes • Shaming • Belittling • Derogatory remarks • Harsh language that may frighten, threaten or humiliate children • Derogatory remarks about the child, or vulnerable adult, or his/her family <p>While these are examples of inappropriate interactions, any verbal interaction is inappropriate if unwanted by the recipient or the minister, employee or volunteer.</p>

3. **One-on-One Interactions** – Because most abuse occurs when an adult is alone with a child, private one-on-one meetings with a child are prohibited unless approved in advance by the appropriate Program Director. When so permitted, the following guidelines shall apply:

The items of conduct shown in the guidelines are examples only, not an all-inclusive list.

<i>One-on-One Interaction Guidelines</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to have someone else in attendance. • When meeting one-on-one with a child, always do so in a public place in full view of others. • Avoid physical affection that can be misinterpreted. • If meeting in a room or office, leave the door open or move to an area that can be easily observed by others passing by. • Inform another minister, employee or volunteer that you are alone with a child and ask them to randomly drop in. • Document and immediately report any unusual incidents, including disclosures of abuse or maltreatment, behavior problems and how they were handled, injuries, or

any interactions that might be misinterpreted.

To the extent any of these guidelines may appear to be in conflict, the spirit of them is that the minister, employee or volunteer, shall seek to be in view of others while meeting privately with a child.

Mandated Reporters

CT State law (Public Acts 02-106 and 02-138) mandates that any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility is mandated promptly to report suspected child abuse or neglect to DCF or a law enforcement agency.¹ By that definition, the pastors, Directors of Christian Education and Youth Fellowships and the Director and Staff of Tolland Green Learning Center (TGLC) are mandated reporters and thus the UCCT is a mandated reporter. If any volunteer or paid staff suspects that a child is being abused or neglected, whether they believe the abuse or neglect has happened/*is happening at the church or a church function or not*, they are to notify the Senior Pastors immediately. The Senior Pastor will notify the proper authorities and will then follow the procedures listed below for the reporting of incidents.

Reporting of Incidents:

All staff, teachers, aides, and volunteers of the UCCT shall adhere to the following reporting procedures in order to promote accountability among all members of the church.

1. Any and all incidents involving questionable or inappropriate behavior related to possible sexual misconduct or sexual, physical, or verbal abuse shall be immediately reported to the pastors, Directors of Christian Education or Youth Fellowships or TGLC.
2. The staff member who receives the report shall document the incident in writing. The report shall contain the date, time, those involved, full explanation of the incident. See attached appendix.
3. If the report comes to a staff member, that person shall meet with the Senior Pastor to discuss and implement an appropriate response.

¹The Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 319a, Sec 17A-101b states that "An oral report shall be made by a mandated reporter as soon as practicable but not later than twelve hours after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm, by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families or a law enforcement agency."

Children in Church

At the 10:00 service, children will first go to the sanctuary and begin worship time with their families. After the children's message, the children will make their way from the sanctuary to their classroom. It is important that someone accompany the children as they do this. The teacher should also attend worship until after the children's message when he/she will walk with their students back to the classroom. Teachers should be prepared to begin the lesson as soon as they arrive to the classroom, as time will be short. .

High School Assistants

Each class will be assigned between two and four High School Assistants to be of assistance to you during the class time. The "job description" which these youth have received is as follows:

Routine Stuff:

- ***Be early!*** *Be in the classroom about 10 minutes early each week.*

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- **Call the teacher from your class or the Church Office (875-4160) if you cannot make it. They depend on your assistance each Sunday.**
- **Gather supplies.** Each class has basic supplies in the closet of the classroom. There are additional supplies in the CE office, please gather as needed.
- **Take attendance.** Record the attendance on sheets provided in class folders. Don't forget to count yourselves!
- **Clean up.** When class is over, help to pick up and return supplies, and clean up the classroom (wipe tables, sweep floors, empty trash).

Discipline:

- **Be pro-active about helping to keep the peace in class. Sit next to those who need extra attention, work one on one if needed. Teachers will let you know where the needs are.**

Teaching:

- **Read stories**
- **Help children with crafts, games, songs, etc...**
- **Share any special gifts you may have (music, drama, etc).**
- **Anything else the teachers may ask of you!**

Please feel free to utilize these wonderful volunteers so they feel useful and that they are contributing in a positive way to the program! They are very capable and willing to help.

Attendance

Please be sure to take attendance each week and record it on the attendance sheets provided. We are responsible to report the numbers of adults and children present each week, and your help is needed to accomplish this task. You will find a folder with the names of children registered for our program. If their name does not appear, please be sure to have the parent/guardian fill out a registration form. This is very important. An office assistant will come to your classroom during the course of the morning to pick up the attendance folder.

Offering

Each family will be provided with a set of offering envelopes for use by their children. A basket will be left in your classroom, along with the attendance folder, for the children to place their offering envelope in. This provides children with the opportunity to learn about giving to the church, good stewardship, and tithing, as a part of what we do as a church community and as followers of Jesus.

Class Covenant

Definition: a binding of persons in mutual trust and loyalty before and with God, toward which each also stands in a relation of trust and loyalty. A covenant relationship is between team members and God. The difference between a promise and a covenant is the sacred dimension: God. We strongly recommend that you establish a covenant with the students in your class, beginning from the first day of class.

•Begin a covenant together:

- Possible categories- (covenants are active, use active words)
1. Preparing the lesson
 2. Follow through
 3. Relationships with children
 4. Worshipping & praying
 5. Stewardship (care of the rooms, materials, offering)
 6. Communication (with students, parents, High School assistants, other teachers...)
 7. Self Discipline/Self Correction
- Do this with your students. Each class creates its own covenant. It should be in children's words. Revise covenant as needed. Put it on a poster to display.
 - Revisit covenant when discipline is an issue. Ask: What went wrong? What part of covenant are we not following? What is the result of not following our covenant? How do we fix it?
 - Revisit covenant when things are going well. Positive reinforcement is a big key to good discipline. It encourages and acknowledges desired behavior.

Discipline

Both new and experienced teachers can become discouraged about children's behavior during class. It is best if you can determine your plan of action before you enter the classroom. Dealing with unwanted behavior is part of the disciplining task of teacher: helping children to grow in a loving relationship with others and with God. Here are some things you can do to minimize undesirable behavior and handle those behaviors graciously when they occur. Be sure if sharing a class both teachers are consistent in handling discipline issues in class.

Pray regularly for the children. Pray that each child may experience God's love and protection while in your care. As you pray (and as you teach), put on the mind and heart of Jesus Christ and consider the learning needs and character of each child. Choose to love each child unconditionally, regardless of his or her behavior in class.

Be prepared. Give yourself time to read carefully through the teacher's guide and make plans for the lesson. Utilize the help of your High School Assistants in preparing lessons the week or weeks in advance.

Be consistent, kind yet firm. Remind the children often of what you expect of them. Use the class covenant idea, to remind him/her of the group's expectation of each individual. They create the covenant that they agree to live by. Think "keeping the covenant" to encourage children to self-correct. Be prepared to stop the session and address unwanted behavior as often as necessary so the children know you are serious about your role as the teacher. This is especially important in the beginning, as the children will be exploring what is acceptable and what is unacceptable behavior, and where you will set the boundaries.

Be observant. Observe the different abilities and interests of each child. Help children develop their unique individuality by offering choices during the Responding time. Make learning active. Engage the minds and bodies of the children you teach. For example, use action with songs and memory verses, sit on the floor at story time, and stand at tables for art projects.

Be encouraging. Support the children in taking responsibility for their own learning and actions. Affirm their efforts without demanding perfection. Reinforce positive behavior in affirming, spoken ways. Communicate effectively. Before you give instruction or tell the story, wait until everyone is quiet and attentive. Speak clearly and slowly, making sure everyone understands what you are saying.

Be ready to apologize. If you have demonstrated unwanted behavior, apologize to the class or an individual. This can be a teachable moment when you model what it means to follow Christ.

Be a teacher, not a buddy. Let the children know you care about them, but relate to them as a teacher and guide. When a teacher tries to be a buddy, relational lines can become blurred and confuse children.

Seek help from others. Ask your High School assistant to give extra attention to any child with behavioral problems. Seek counsel and support from other teachers and parents. If you do not know how to handle a discipline problem, consult with parents/guardians, a teaching peer, or the Director.

Supplies

Each classroom will be provided with a supply bin. The bin includes crayons, markers, hole punch, one pair of large scissors, small pairs of children's scissors, stapler, staples, staple remover, pens, pencils, rulers, scotch tape (2), glue bottles (2), glue sticks, sharpie marker.

In addition, there are other supplies available in CE office. Items available include: decorative scissors, rulers, tape, rubber bands, hot glue gun, liquid school glue, glue sticks, silk flowers, sea shells, walnut shells, craft sticks, stencils, tissue paper, straws, black beans, brown paper lunch bags, coffee filters, food coloring, fasteners, tooth picks, film canisters, beads, stamps/ink pads, pipe cleaners, glitter, foamy shapes/letters/sheets, markers, paint/brushes, felt, yarn, ribbon, doilies, and tons of crayons. You can consider these items when planning lessons. Likewise, if you use the last of something, please let me know that as well, so that I may replace it for the next person. In addition, if there are items you need and we do not have, please let Kristen know (in advance) so items may be ordered for you. If you have a special project in mind, and wish to purchase items with your own money, please see Kristen first – as you may be able to be reimbursed. In the alternative, Kristen may help you brainstorm another idea using resources we already have. We hope to maintain the supplies in such a way that it is easy for everyone to find and use these items...so your help is appreciated. Thanks!

Teaching Resources

This year's program is called *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Each teacher will also receive a log-in and password to access the weekly lesson materials on-line. The website is <http://www.seasonsonline.ca/> .

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If each team member follows the curriculum that was selected, it will ensure that students will be receiving approved, biblically sound material that is in line with the beliefs of our denomination, the United Church of Christ.

That being said, you may be in search of some supplemental material for just the right book, video, skit, song, bulletin board idea or craft to reinforce the theme or story your class is learning. A list follows below. Please feel free to pass along other ideas to me to be shared with other team members.

There are many videos, DVDs, CDs, books, reference materials, games, puzzles, trivia tools and more available. These items are housed in the CE office. There is a sign-out sheet hanging from a clipboard in the office. Please feel free to borrow any items and sign them out. When you return the item, please cross out your name so we know it is back where it belongs. There is a list of these materials which you can access from the church's website under "Teacher's Page".

Website Suggestions

(updated September 2016)

www.daniellesplace.com Access to some free educational bible-based craft ideas and learning games for kids, designed to make learning fun.

www.kidology.org Access to some free ideas, tools and interaction (discussion forums) around the world of children's ministry.

<http://www.msscrafter.com> Free crafts and ideas for over 100 bible stories as well as other activities for devotions and bible classes.

www.teacherhelp.org Free and low cost resources for Christian Children's Ministry

www.kidssundayschool.com Access to some free, creative children's ministry resources for grade school and preschool. Features complete lessons, skits, activities, games, bible crafts, object lessons, stories, games & songs.

www.christiancrafters.com Access to some free, creative bible lessons for children's ministry and a discussion forum for Christian teachers.

<http://www.dltk-kids.com> Bible crafts, printables, and more.

www.rotation.org Sign in as a guest to take advantage of thousands of free lessons, which are designed for workshop rotation model lessons which could be adapted to our delivery method.

Schedule for 2017-18

9/10 Commissioning of Church School; First Day of Church School; Ice breaker activities and name games, create class covenant; All Church cookout after the 10am service

9/17 Third Grade Bible presentation; Lesson "Wilderness/Outback Sunday" Romans 8:18-27, preparation for World Communion Sunday; 7th Grade Chapter 1 "Creation"

9/24 Lesson "River Sunday" Revelation 22:1-5; 7th Grade Chapter 2 "God Builds a Nation"

10/1 No Church School - All Ages Worship for World Communion Sunday; 6pm
Confirmation Orientation

10/8 Lesson “A Rule of Love” Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 2-20; 7th Grade Chapter 3 “Joseph”

10/15 Lesson “Soothing Our Souls” Exodus 32:1-14; 7th Grade Chapter 4 “Deliverance”;

*Confirmation begins on Tuesday 10/17

10/22 Lesson “Our Whole Selves” Exodus 33:12-23; 7th Grade Chapter 5 “New
Commands”

10/29 Lesson “Time to Say Goodbye” Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 7th Grade Chapter 6
“Wandering”; Reformation Sunday; Faith in Action Expo, New Member Meeting (after
church)

11/5 *Daylight Savings Time; All Saints Sunday; Lesson “What Should I Do?” Matthew
23:1-12; 7th Grade Chapter 7 “The Battle Begins”

11/12 Lesson “Be Ready” Matthew 25:1-13; 7th Grade Chapter 8 “A Few Good Men...
and Women”

11/19 Lesson “Investing What is Offered” Matthew 25:14-30; 7th Grade Chapter 9 “The
Faith of a Foreign Woman”; Care and Share Sunday; Christmas on the Green; All Church
Photo

11/26 No Church School classes - Thanksgiving Weekend – Movie Day

12/3 Lesson “Two-sided Coin” Isaiah 64:1-9; 7th Grade Chapter 10 “Standing Tall
Falling Hard”; First week of Advent

12/10 Lesson “God’s Way of Love Lasts Forever” Isaiah 40:1-11; 7th Grade Chapter 11
“From Shepherd to King” & Chapter 12 “The Trials of a King”; Second week of Advent

12/17 Lesson “Shout with Joy” Psalm 126; 7th Grade Chapter 13 “The King Who had it
All”; Care and Share Sunday; Brass Sunday; Third week of Advent

12/24 No Church School; 10am Pageant Service; 8pm Christmas Eve Service; 11pm
Candlelight Service; Fourth week of Advent

12/31 No Church School; One service at 10am

1/7 Lesson “Beloved” Mark 1:4-11; 7th Grade Chapter 14 “A Kingdom Torn in Two”

1/14 Lesson “Discerning God’s Call” 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 7th Grade Chapter 15 “God’s
Messengers”; Peace and Justice Sunday – Speaker and Brunch

1/21 Lesson “Casting Call” Mark 1:14-20; 7th Grade Chapter 16 “The Beginning of the
End” & Chapter 17 “The Kingdom’s Fall”

1/28 Lesson “Called to Truthful Love” Mark 1:21-28; 7th Grade Chapter 18 “Daniel in
Exile”; Church Annual Meeting

2/4 Lesson “Called to Healing” Mark 1:29-39; Youth Sunday- 6th & 7th Grades stay in
church so they can attend Youth Sunday; Church School Bake Sale

2/11 No Church School; One service at 10am: All ages worship for Mardi Gras/Jazz
Sunday; Pancake Breakfast *2/14 Ash Wednesday Service at 9am & 7pm

2/18 Lesson “God Loves Us” Genesis 9:8-17; 7th Grade Chapter 19 “The Return Home”;
First Sunday of Lent

2/25 Lesson “The Blessing of Generations” Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 7th Grade Chapter 20
“The Queen of Beauty and Courage”; Second Sunday of Lent

3/4 Lesson “Contemplate God’s Glory” Psalm 19; Chapter 21 “Rebuilding the Walls”;
Kids in Communion!; Third Sunday of Lent

3/11 *Daylight Savings Time; Lesson “God’s Love is Steadfast” Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
7th Grade Chapter 22 “The Birth of a King”; Fourth Sunday of Lent

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3/18 Lesson “God’s Love is in Our Hearts” Jeremiah 31:31-34; 7th Grade Chapter 23
“Jesus’ Ministry Begins”; Fifth Sunday of Lent

3/25 Palm/Passion Sunday; Lesson “Love Arriving” Mark 11:1-11; 7th Grade Chapter 24
“No Ordinary Man”; Holy Week: Maundy Thursday service 7pm; Good Friday church
open 9am-3pm.

4/1 No Church School – Easter Sunday, worship at 8:30 and 10am

4/8 Lesson “Love is the Response to Grace” John 20:19-31; 7th Grade Chapter 25 “Jesus,
The Son of God”; New Member Meeting

4/15 Lesson “Love Means Showing Up” Luke 24:36b-48; 7th Grade Chapter 26 “The
Hour of Darkness”

4/22 Lesson “Love in Truth and Action” John 10:11-18; 7th Grade Chapter 27 “The
Resurrection”

4/29 Scout Sunday; Lesson “Love Abides” John 15:1-8; 7th Grade Chapter 28 “New
Beginnings”

5/6 Lesson “Loving Friends” John 15:9-17; 7th Grade Chapter 29 “Pauls’ Mission”;
Music Appreciation Sunday

5/13 Mother’s Day; Children’s Sunday; 7th Graders lead worship

5/20 Pentecost Sunday; Last Day of Church School; Ice Cream Social; 7th Grade Chapter
30 “Paul’s Final Days” & Lesson 31 “The End of Time”