



# Growing with Faith

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIBERTYVILLE

**2023-24 Sneak Preview**

## Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church

### Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes for children PreK-12th grade are built around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s curriculum called **Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living**. "This curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now."



Each week, all grades will be learning about the same biblical principles and stories in age-appropriate ways, allowing us to be in conversation about what we are learning together.

We'll all begin in worship together and then, after the Word for the Children which follows the second scripture reading, all children who wish to participate in Sunday School may head to their classrooms on the second floor of the Christian Education wing (the northeast corner of the building) with their classroom shepherd.

Classes end when worship ends and we ask that students through 4th grade are picked up by an authorized person once worship has ended so our teachers might also enjoy fellowship time during Social Hour.

## Confirmation

Our confirmation program is designed for students ages 8th grade and up who wish to learn more about what it means to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism. We use the Episcopal **Confirm not Conform: Presbyterian Edition** curriculum, a youth confirmation program that exposes youth to a wide range of topics, including Scripture, sacraments, creeds, heresy, prayer, other religions, and serving others, and asks them to think through what they believe and why.



**Confirm not Conform** emphasizes finding one's own voice rather than simply conforming to an external standard. It is a program that respects the work youth and adults do as they explore their faith, trusting that when people put in the effort to articulate what they believe and why, they will make good choices about their next step in faith.

Classes meet for 18 Sundays throughout the school year. Before the school year begins, we head to Covenant Harbor for a weekend retreat and we end the year with an all-church celebration on a Saturday in the weeks leading up to Confirmation, which is celebrated on Pentecost.

## **Adult**

ALL of our Adult Ed offerings are designed for dropping in whenever you can, with little or no prep. Attend all classes in a series or just one or two and still be enriched.

### **Fridays: October 6, October 13, October 20 7:00 PM-8:30 PM**

Doing the Right Thing: What Guides a Christian in Tough Moral Decisions, led by Christian Ethics Professor Brian Smith

Christians face many moral decisions daily, from small ones like “Should I tell this little white lie?” to larger and more consequential ones. Christians ponder, along with others, questions of right and wrong, good and bad, just and unjust. But what goes into the Christian decision-making process? The Bible of course, but what other tools and resources does the modern Christian have in making those decisions? The class will not specifically look at those hot button, often controversial, moral subjects that are present in 21st Century, but rather look at guides available to the Christian when making those often tough ethical decisions. Each session will be stand-alone and open to all. Make a night of it - come to learn with friends and then go out for more conversation after! (childcare provided)



### **DOING THE RIGHT THING** WHAT GUIDES A CHRISTIAN IN TOUGH DECISIONS

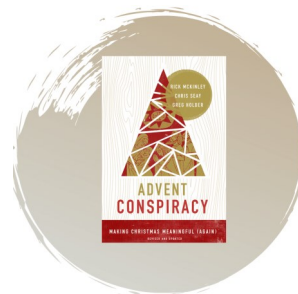
Led by Christian Ethics Professor Brian Smith  
Fridays, October 6, 13, 20 - 7:00 PM-8:30 PM  
childcare provided

**Mondays: November 27, December 4, December 11, December 18**

Advent Book Study in-person 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Advent Book Study Zoom 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Using the book *Advent Conspiracy*, we'll dive into four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts - Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All - to help us substitute consumption with compassion and focus on Jesus' birth.

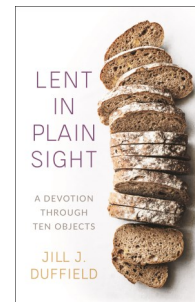


**Mondays: February 12, February 19, February 26, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25**

Lent Book Study in-person 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

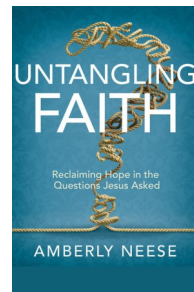
Lent Book Study Zoom 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, will help us to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives.



**Tuesdays: April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7 7:00 PM-8:00 PM**

Join us on Zoom for some or all of six weeks of *Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked*. This Amplify study is led by Amberly Neese, and she “explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith.”

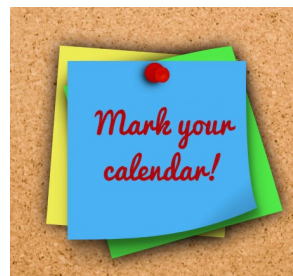


## Family Retreat

**Friday, February 16-Saturday, February 17**

Join us for a Friday/Saturday retreat Presidents' Day weekend open to families with children of all ages. We make time for fun, fellowship, and, of course, good food!

More details will be available in the fall but we really hope you'll reserve the date on your family's calendar and join us!





## All Ages Service, Fellowship, and Connecting with Our Community at First Presbyterian Church

**Explore Our Neighborhood** is modeled in part after Mister Rogers' trips to places beyond the neighborhood (i.e. crayon factory, emergency room, National Zoo, etc.).

From about 12:00 - 3:00, we will share a meal with folks doing good work in Lake County, learn about the work they are doing and how it ties to our lives as followers of Jesus, and then help with their service. These trips are for people of all ages, members of the congregation AND friends.



### **November 5, 2023**

We will connect with an organization serving veterans and help them with the services they provide.

### **January 21, 2024**

We will head to an organization focused on grief ministries, in conjunction with the **Follow Me** unit on Comfort Those Who Mourn, and then help with the services they provide.

### **March 10, 2024**

We will head to an organization supporting underserved women to learn more about their ministry, and then work alongside them to help them be ready to serve.

### **June 23, 2024**

TBD

## Children and Youth Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church

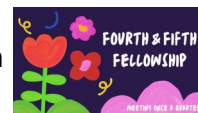
### First through Third Friends

About once a quarter, first through third graders are invited to build friendships, playing and eating together from 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.



### Fourth and Fifth Fellowship

About once a quarter, fourth through fifth graders are invited to deepen their friendships, with a meal and activities from 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM.



### Junior High Fellowship (JHF)

Junior High Fellowship, or JHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.



### Senior High Fellowship (SHF)

Much like Junior High Fellowship, Senior High Fellowship, or SHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.





## Youth Small Groups at First Presbyterian Church

Starting this fall we will offer a mid-week opportunity for our youth to gather in a home setting to have opportunities for deeper conversations and nurture of their faith, along with more personalized fellowship. For each gathering, there will be a simple conversation starter question grounded in our faith. Conversation may center around the question or diverge to something on the hearts of the kids.

We already have some hosts and are securing more to choose a day of the week to meet 2-4 times a month for a 1.5 hour window to simply make space and guide whomever shows that night.

The key to it all is to give our youth a chance to pick a small group date that works for them and be part of more intentional faith-building (while growing in relationship with adults from the congregation) with a group of people who share a faith background and bring it to understanding the rest of their lives in community with one another over time.



## **2023-24 Calendar**

(drafted May 2023; subject to change)

### **Saturday, August 19**

Teaching Training 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

### **Friday, August 25-Saturday, August 26**

Confirmation Retreat at Covenant Harbor

### **Sunday, August 27**

Confirmation Family and Mentor Orientation 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

### **Sunday, September 10 - KICK-OFF SUNDAY!**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Kick-off Celebration 11:00 AM-12:30PM

JHF/SHF Combined Kick-off 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

### **Sunday, September 17**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #1 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, September 24**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #2 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

**Sunday, October 1**

NO Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade (kids remain in worship for Communion Sunday)

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Friday, October 6**

*Doing the Right Thing* with Professor Brian Smith 7:00 PM-8:30 PM (childcare provided)

**Sunday, October 8**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #3 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

NO SHF

**Friday, October 13**

*Doing the Right Thing* with Professor Brian Smith 7:00 PM-8:30 PM (childcare provided)

**Sunday, October 15**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #4 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Friday, October 20**

*Doing the Right Thing* with Professor Brian Smith 7:00 PM-8:30 PM (childcare provided)

**Sunday, October 22**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #5 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, October 29**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #6 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF/SHF Combined Fall Fest at Townanders' Barn 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, November 5**

NO Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade (kids remain in worship for Communion Sunday)

Confirmation Class #7 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

Explore Our Neighborhood event 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, November 12**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #8 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

First through Third Friends 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, November 19**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #9 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, November 26 - NO programming because of Thanksgiving Weekend**

**Monday, November 27**

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, December 3**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Advent Wreath-making, Crèche-piece-pick-up, and all-church lunch 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, December 4**

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, December 10**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #10 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, December 11**

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM



**Saturday, December 16**

Confirmation Class Mobile Food Pantry Service event 7:30 AM-9:30 AM

**Sunday, December 17**

NO Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade (because of Christmas Pageant)

Confirmation Class #11 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, December 18**

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, December 24 - NO programming because of Winter Break**

**Sunday, December 31 - NO programming because of Winter Break**

**Sunday, January 7 - NO programming because of Winter Break**

**Sunday, January 14**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #12 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, January 21**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #13 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

Explore Our Neighborhood event 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Sunday, January 28**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #14 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

\*JHF overnight winter retreat weekend TBD

**Friday, February 2-Sunday, February 4**

SHF Stronghold Retreat

**Sunday, February 4**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #15 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

NO SHF

**Sunday, February 11 - Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, February 12**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Friday, February 16-Saturday, February 17**

Family Retreat weekend

**Sunday, February 18 - NO programming because of Presidents' Day weekend****Monday, February 19**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, February 25**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, February 26**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 3**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #16 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

First through Third Friends 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, March 4**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 10**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Pi Day Pie Sale Fundraiser 11:00AM-11:45 AM

Explore Our Neighborhood event 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, March 11**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Saturday, March 16**

Confirmation Class Mobile Food Pantry Service event 7:30 AM-9:30 AM

Youth Sunday Rehearsal 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

**Sunday, March 17 - Youth Sunday**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Monday, March 18**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 24 - NO programming because of Spring Break**

**Monday, March 25**

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 31 - NO programming because of Easter**

**Tuesday, April 2**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, April 7**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #17 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 9**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM



**Sunday, April 14**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #18 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 16**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, April 21 - Earth Care Sunday**

NO Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade (because of Earth Care Sunday)

Eco-Fair 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 23**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, April 28**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

First through Third Friends 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 30**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, May 5**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Luncheon 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Tuesday, May 7**

Zoom Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Sunday, May 12**

Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade 10:20 AM-11:00 AM

NO JHF (because of Mother's Day)

NO SHF (because of Mother's Day)

**Sunday, May 19 - Confirmation and Baccalaureate Sunday**

NO Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th grade (because of Confirmation and Baccalaureate)

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

LAST JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

LAST SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Saturday, June 8-Saturday, June 15** Montreat Youth Trip

**Sunday, June 23**

Explore Our Neighborhood event 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Junior High and Senior High week-long trips TBD

ALSO IN THE WORKS:

- Fall and Spring Saturday adult education offerings with an outside speaker from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM (childcare provided)
- a Spring evening 3-week course akin to the fall *Doing the Right Thing* (childcare provided)