

Christian Formation Ministry

Vision & Goals

Ratified on October 25, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop and deepen relationships with God and with one another so we grow together in faith as a church community.

Together, we will achieve this through emphasis on worship as a means of faithful practice within a communal setting, fostering and maintaining relationships across generations, active mission, and teaching Bible stories and more through the lens of Reformed theology.

LEARNING GOALS

By the time a child is in kindergarten, we want them to know:

- God is love.
- God created all things.
- God is good.
- God takes care of me.
- Jesus is my friend.
- I belong to God's family.
- I am a part of a church.
- I am welcome in worship.
- The Bible is a special book.
- To say thank you to God, we pray and share.
- The Christmas story.
- The Easter story.

By the time a child has finished third grade, we want them to know:

- Different kinds of prayers to be said with family (meals, bedtime, etc) and at church (both spoken and sung).
- How to pray out loud.
- How to ask questions about faith/God.
- The 10 Commandments.
- The Lord's Prayer.
- The Greatest Commandment.

- How to find particular texts in the Bible (with guidance).
- How to use the hymnal.
- The basics of what the Lord's Supper is and how to receive it.
- Some Bible stories ("best of"—Creation, Noah's Ark, Moses in the Nile River, big events in Jesus' life, some parables, etc.)
- They are an important part of the worshiping body.
- The Golden Rule (and why our faith says it matters).
- How a family acts out their faith together (giving of their time, talent, and/or treasure).
- Know and have connections to older children and adults.

By the time a child has finished fifth grade, we want them to know:

- The books of the Bible and where to find them.
- Parables Jesus taught.
- The major characters of the Bible.
- The Exodus story.
- The liturgical calendar.
- The general timeline of Jesus' life.
- A deeper understanding of how an individual and families can live out faith.
- The doxology.
- The Apostles Creed.
- Some history of the early church.
- That worship leadership is an important act and one that children can do.
- We are each called by God to give generously of our time, talent, and treasure.

By the time a child has finished middle school, we want them to know:

- The meaning of foundational Bible stories like the Exodus, birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the creation story, and the book of Genesis.
- The narrative arc of the Hebrew Bible.
- The history of the Bible and how it was composed.
- Why there are 4 different Gospels and unique characteristics of each.
- A basic understanding of Presbyterianism.
- An introduction to the Reformation/Reformed faith.
- Foundational confessions and what they are.
- What the Trinity is.
- The order of worship.
- What the sacraments are and when they occur.
- The meaning of service to others and mission.
- What it means to live out the Greatest Commandment.
- That they are an important part of this church community.
- Know and have connections to younger children and adults.

By the time a child has finished high school, we want them to know:

- Some history of the early church.
- About the Acts of the Apostles.

- What it means to interpret the Bible.
- How the church and presbytery operate.
- A deeper understanding of the Reformation and Presbyterian theology.
- What sin and evil are.
- The differences between Christianity and other major world religions.
- What it means to choose your faith and to ask questions of it.
- How to explore service and mission in different contexts and intergenerationally.
- That this church will always welcome, accept, and love them.
- That faith is a lifelong journey that is both communal and personal.
- Ways faith can inform our actions.
- Know and have connections to younger children and adults, and model how to live in faith.

By the time a person is a young adult, we want them to understand:

- It is okay to have doubts about faith, God, etc.
- The importance of faith evolving as one ages and has more/new life experiences.
- There are a wide variety of ways to put your faith into practice.
- The communal nature of faith.
- This church will welcome you when you need a community.
- Ways Christians are called to generously and gratefully steward our time, talent, and treasure.
- That the home is the most important venue for faith formation.
- How to identify resources that are a theological fit for their own faith journey.
- How to access theologically appropriate resources for their children (if applicable).

By the time a person is an older adult, we want them to understand:

- The importance of connecting with and nurturing younger generations.
- How to view current events through the lens of faith.
- Ways to integrate Christian values into everyday life.
- That it's important to wrestle with scary questions around life and death.
- Ways Christians are called to generously and gratefully steward our time, talent, and treasure.
- How to find texts of support and comfort in the Bible.
- The importance of having read the entire Bible from cover to cover -- and have accomplished it, too.
- The importance of sharing your beliefs and faith journey with others.
- The importance of and different kinds of prayer.
- A deeper understanding of how the Bible was assembled and its historical context.