



Welcome to Sunday morning childcare, education, and worship for children! The following is a brief description of the age groups, typical class time for infants through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please scroll down to your child's age group.

### Childcare and Sunday school Classes 6<sup>th</sup> floor

**Babies** who are not yet walking are cared for by a dedicated and consistent team of professional caretakers. In addition to offering loving basic care, we aim to provide: support in separation (although never forced), age appropriate stimulation, and personalized attention - creating a place of warmth and safety where babies will love to return each week. Babies will be dismissed to the parents by the teachers and asked to sign out and return beepers with the Greeter.

**Toddlers** are babies who are confidently walking but who have not yet begun attending a preschool program, usually between ages 1 and 3. Teachers/Caregivers play, read, and sing informally with the children. Stimulating toys and Manipulatives will be offered and facilitated play will be slightly more directed toward socialization than in the Babies room. Teachers will work closely with parents and accommodate parent's wishes for separation, toileting and feeding. When possible, the teachers will incorporate some group activities and structure. There is a wide range of readiness for everything in this age group and the teachers work very hard to tailor expectations and activities accordingly. Children will be dismissed to the parents by the teachers and asked to sign out and return beepers with the Greeter.

*[The following describes classes with start times at 10:30 or after. At 9:00 we have two Sunday school groups; one for Preschoolers and another for Kindergarten and older. The lessons are based on the same curriculum as the later Sunday school, but are adapted to be used with a wider age range]*

**Preschool** children are presently attending a preschool program during the week, or demonstrate an ability to separate, participate in group activities, are toilet trained, and understand basic verbal instructions. Two to three teachers facilitate this class which follows a predictable flow or routine each week: Children begin to arrive at 10:45 and the class begins at 11:00. As children arrive, they will have some time for free play, then everyone helps to clean up toys, and all are taken to the restroom to use the toilet if needed and wash their hands. They return to the class for a small snack and drink at the tables and then have songs, prayers, and stories on the rug in Circle and Worship time. This is followed by a table activity which is related to the story. Children will be dismissed to the parents by the teachers.

**K – 1** students are presently attending Kindergarten or First Grade. These students are taught by our wonderful church member teacher(s). The class begins at 10:45 sharp. This enables parents to have enough time to sign their child in and get to the sanctuary in time for 11:00 Worship. Promptness also allows the children to socialize a little and gives the teachers enough time for a full class and makes for a more comfortable entry for the students. Each class usually includes a story and related activity, not always in that order. At about 11:25, the children are offered a break to use the restroom or get a drink of water. At 11:30 the teachers transition them to our children's worship service, Worship and Wonder which is held in our Children's Chapel on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. From there they will be taken to the Tea Room (adjacent to Phillips Hall in the basement) where they will be dismissed to parents. On Communion Sundays (the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month) they will be escorted to the sanctuary after the Offertory to join their families in Holy Communion. On these Sundays we ask parents to sit close to the North side door so that their children can easily locate them.

**Bible Discovery** is comprised of students in the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** Grades. Third grade students will receive a bible of their own from the church. These classes also begin at 10:45 and are taught by church members and staff. They are lectionary based and use the same focus scripture as the others but employ an emphasis on using, navigating, and understanding the bible. The teachers creatively use art, games, and role play to help students explore the scriptures. Again, promptness will ensure the best experience for all. At about 11:25, the children are offered a break to use the restroom or get a drink of water. At 11:30 the teachers transition them to our children's worship service, **Worship and Wonder** which is held in our Children's Chapel on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. From there they will be taken to the Tea Room (adjacent to Phillips Hall in the basement) where they will be dismissed to parents. On Communion Sundays (the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month) they will be escorted to the sanctuary after the Offertory to join their families in Holy Communion. On these Sundays we ask parents to sit close to the North side door so that their children can easily locate them.

**Tweens** are students in **4<sup>th</sup> – \*6<sup>th</sup>** Grades. Their class begins at 10:30 and is split into two halves. This is also taught by Church Members and Staff. Again, promptness is a win/win/win for students, teachers, and parents. At 10:30, they will read and talk through the weekly Focus Scripture. At 11:00, their teacher will take them to the sanctuary to sit with their parent/guardian in **Worship**. Just before the sermon, these students will have an opportunity to exit the sanctuary (except on Communion Sundays, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, when they should remain in the sanctuary for Communion). They will either have a discussion or activity with a teacher on the weekly scripture from the Gospels or they may attend **Worship and Wonder**. This varies from week to week depending on the weekly lessons. From there they will be taken to the Tea Room (adjacent to Phillips Hall in the basement) where they will be dismissed to parents.

**Worship and Wonder** is a worship service design for children in **Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade**. This is lead by church members, staff, and professional musicians. The liturgical order parallels our sanctuary service and includes a range of styles of prayer, scripture, story, and song. This takes place from 11:30 to 12:00 (or the conclusion of sanctuary worship). This is a gentle and age appropriate introduction to formal, corporate worship and collective praise.

We draw our Sunday lessons and experiences from a number of \*lectionary based resources for children. Most of our Sunday school content comes from the Whole People of God Seasons of the Spirit curriculum which provides age appropriate stories, lesson approaches, and related activities. It is designed to help clarify the seasons of the liturgical year, bring the bible stories to life, explain the cultural contexts in which they were written, and with 21<sup>st</sup> century language and concepts, help children discover The Word's relevance for their faith, world, and lives today. If you can't attend church or would like to explore the bible stories and topics with your children at home, while traveling or any time, I recommend visiting the Seasons of the Spirit website: [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca) , (Library and Action Zone, Links, and Spirit Sightings) or by subscribing to the Whole People of God Tip of the Week at [tip@wholepeopleofgod.com](mailto:tip@wholepeopleofgod.com) If you seek a very good Story Bible for children, we use Ralph Milton's Lectionary Year Story Bibles, published by Woodlake. Also available by Milton, is a Family Story Bible with a collection of bible stories. We use those and we use and gift the Illustrated New Revised Standard Version Bible from Hendrickson Publishing. These can be purchased online from Cokesbury, the Seasons Online website, or Amazon.

~Kathryn Carroll

\* The Revised Common Lectionary is a prescribed series of readings which runs in three-year cycles, with readings typically from the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles; a passage from one of the Psalms; another from either the Epistles (Letters) or Revelation; and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels.

## Older Children

**\*Confirmation** - After the start of the New Year, students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be invited to join this year's Confirmation Class. This meets every Sunday at 9:45 (so that students can attend one of the worship services) and is taught by the clergy and other members in Christ Church's leadership. These classes conclude in the spring, usually on or around Pentecost when students are received as professing members in an 11:00 Worship service. For more information about Confirmation, please contact Rev. Javier Viera, [javier@christchurchnyc.org](mailto:javier@christchurchnyc.org).

**Youth** are students who have been confirmed or are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and higher. They meet every Sunday at 9:45 and at other times and for social and service activities. For more information on our Youth program, please contact Rev. Tiffany Thomas at [tiffany@christchurchnyc.org](mailto:tiffany@christchurchnyc.org)

## Sunday Schedule

8:45 – 12:30	Nursery, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
9:00	Multi-age Sunday School, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor Chapel Worship with Eucharist
9:45 – 10:45	Guided activities and Fellowship
10:30 – 11:00	Tweens (4-6 grades), 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
10:45	Sunday School (K-3), 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
11:00	Preschool Play and Praise, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor Tweens to Sanctuary Sanctuary Worship
11:30	Worship and Wonder (K-3), 5 <sup>th</sup> floor Tweens Gospel Talk, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor
11:55 – 11:25	Sunday Children's Choir, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor (K – 6 grades)
12:00	Dismissal – K and older, 5 <sup>th</sup> floor All younger, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor

*(When construction on Phillips Hall is complete, K and older and Children's choir will be dismissed to parents in the Tea Room with the exception of Communion Sundays, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month when they will join families in the sanctuary to celebrate the Eucharist.)*