

Middle School
RE Calendar 2016-2017

9/11	Intergenerational-RE Open House & Registration
9/18	#1
9/25	#2
10/2	<i>Traditional Communion: Remain in worship</i>
10/9	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
10/16	#3
10/23	#4
10/30	#5
11/6	<i>Alternative Communion: Remain in worship</i>
11/13	Intergenerational: Leaf Raking Sunday
11/20	#6
11/27	#7
12/4	<i>Traditional Communion: Remain in worship</i>
12/11	#8
12/18	Intergenerational- Christmas Pageant
12/25	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
1/1	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
1/8	#9
1/15	#10
1/22	#11
1/29	#12
2/5	<i>Traditional Communion: Remain in worship</i>
2/12	#13
2/19	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
2/26	#14
3/5	<i>Alternative Communion: Remain in worship</i>
3/12	#15
3/19	#16
3/26	Intergenerational: RE Spring Sign-Ups
4/2	<i>Traditional Communion: Remain in worship</i>
4/9	#17
4/16	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
4/23	#18
4/30	#19
5/7	Intergenerational: Music Sunday
5/14	Intergenerational: Affirmation
5/21	#20
5/28	Holiday NO RE Classes / NO Nursery Care
6/4	<i>Traditional Communion-Remain in worship</i>
6/11	RE Sunday & Picnic Celebration

Discipline Policy

Participants in the Religious Education (RE) program are notably respectful, attentive and positive contributors to activities. Occasionally, however, discipline problems arise. In response to several requests, the RE Committee has discussed policies with a number of parents and teachers; the following policy is now in effect.

"Discipline problems" are defined as:

***Any violent act**

(hitting, throwing objects)

***Ongoing repeated behavior**

(swearing, constant disruption/disrespect)

A sequential pattern is recommended for handling discipline in the classroom: Ignore, Eye Contact, Gently Call the Child's Name, Involve them in the lesson, Remind them of Rules, Move Closer to them, Pause the Lesson to Redirect. If the child continues to misbehave, the RE Director will be called to assist in the classroom; If the child needs to leave the classroom, he/she will sit with the RE Director and parents will be notified of behavior.

RE Committee

Bethany Knoettner

Megan Kane

Andrea Flaherty

Jen Scarano

Lynn Neild

Jenn Smagula

Erin Nielson

Nicole Tracey (RE Director)

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Religious Education

First Parish Church United
Westford, MA

Middle School Grades 6,7,8 2016-2017

*Middle School meets in the Cozy Corner
2 Volunteer Teachers are needed each Sunday
Lessons are created by volunteer teachers*

Middle School Curriculum Info

The 3-year middle school program explores the **world's many religions, life stages through each religion, and basic morals and values** in an atmosphere that encourages students to get to know each other, have fun, and become contributing members of the FPCU community.

This year is Year 1

Years 1 & 2 cover all the major **World Religions**: Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Native American Spirituality, and many more. There are opportunities to visit places of worship for different faiths in the area (field trips!) First hand information on other religions comes from ministers, teachers, rabbis, monks, youth groups, and other various materials.

Values & Morals are the focus during **Year 3**. Using the curriculum, *What Do You Stand For?*, students explore and practice honesty, kindness, empathy, integrity, tolerance, patience, respect, and more. Quotations and background information set the stage. Dilemmas challenge readers to think about, discuss, and debate positive traits. Activities invite them to explore what they stand for at school, at home, and in their communities. True stories profile who exemplify positive traits; resources point the way toward character-building books, organizations, programs, and Web sites. This program is primarily discussion-based using games and interactive software to enhance the curriculum.

Field Trips vary year to year. There will be more info to come as they are planned and approved!

Affirmation Program

This program is offered to all 8th grade students in the church. Meeting with the pastor several times throughout the year, the students work on articulating and understanding what they believe. These young people are the "affirmed" during a worship service they help create and lead on Mother's Day. This year, Affirmation will be on May 14, 2017.

Communion

On the 1st Sunday of each month, Middle School students remain in Worship and participate in communion-both traditional and alternative.

Volunteer Teachers

Those who volunteer to teach Middle School RE are responsible for looking over the lesson & planning accordingly. Activities & Field Trips are also planned by the volunteers.