

Christian Formation and Discipleship Opportunities for Children and Youth

2011 - 2012

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
IS ABOUT REAL LIFE!



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
14900 Annapolis Road
Bowie, MD 20715
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Christian Formation

Our faith formation journey begins when our parents bring us to church and church school as an infant and young child. The church partners with parents in raising their children in the faith and pledges as children are baptized to surround them in a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in the faith.

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Children in Worship

Children are welcome to attend worship services and participate. Children's bulletins (one for ages 3-6 and one for ages 7-12) and worship activity bags are available from the ushers. The bright yellow brochure *The ABC's of Children in Worship* will help parents guide the children in participating in worship. This brochure is available in the alcove in the narthex.

Faith, the first step of faith development, is formed during our very early years as we learn to trust other adults to care for us. For that reason, our nursery rooms have a team leader who is with us each week and leads the activities in each room. Volunteers assist as scheduled by the week and the hour. Two rooms are available for your younger children during worship as needed:

Nursery I - for infants and toddlers - in **Room 116**

Nursery II - for two-year-olds who are potty trained through first grade - in **Room 109**

Children's Church - During the 11:00 a.m. worship service, just before the sermon, children in Grades One - Five may choose to follow the light out of the service to Children's Church. Children's Church will focus on the message of the day through age-appropriate activities. Parents will pick up their children from **Room 126** after the service.

Children's Church School Classes beginning September 11 at 9:45 a.m.

All are welcome to attend beginning on any Sunday morning. Please register your child/ren, when they first attend using the Church School Registration form available in the classroom. Children attend same class that they attend in preschool/school. Young children attend the class for the age that they are by September 01, 2011.

Nursery I - For infants and toddlers - Using the *Rock-a-Bye Babies and Waddlers Ministry Guide* our nursery caregivers will nurture and begin to introduce Christian formation in our youngest children in age-appropriate ways. Through songs, scripture, fingerplays, faith words and phrases and posters, young children will begin on their faith journey to learn, know and experience God and Jesus.

Leaders: Shirley Gergel and volunteers

Location: Room 116

Two-Year-Old Class (must be potty trained) - Using the *Rock-a-Bye Toddlers and Twos* curriculum our two teachers will introduce and nurture the children in Christian faith formation using easy-to-understand faith concepts, Bible stories, songs, games, fingerplays and board books.

Leaders: Nursery II Team Leader and volunteers

Location: Room 110

Preschool Three and Four's through Grade 5 classes - Each class uses the age-level appropriate United Methodist *Rock Solid* curriculum to help them grow in their faith journey. The *Rock Solid* curriculum is a comprehensive overview of the Bible covering the major stories of the Bible spread over three years. Each week, the children encounter a Bible Story, helping them to understand the Scripture and apply it to their daily lives. The outlines of Bible stories follow the Christian year, so children fully experience stories of Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. Activities provide a variety

of brain-friendly methods to help children to experience and learn the Bible stories and how they apply to Real Kids today and continue to nurture them on their faith journey as they grow and mature.

Class: Preschool Threes & Fours **Location:** Room 22

Leaders: Sharon Fraber, Traci Murphy, Mark Behringer

Class: Kindergarten & First Grade **Location:** Room 23

Leaders: Lisa Behringer, Karen Geary, Linda Harbaugh

Class: Second & Third Grade **Location:** Room 24

Leaders: Didi Greaves, Joni Wiredu, Debbie & Henry Schott

Class: Fourth & Fifth Grade **Location:** Room 223

Leaders: Angela Poinsett, Peggy Price



Weekly Opportunities for Youth

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) – This fellowship group meets in two sections: a Middle School UMYF for grades 6–8, and a Senior High UMYF for grades 9–12. Our youth elect their own Youth Council, discuss contemporary issues from a Christian standpoint, plan seasonal retreats, hold church lock-ins and occasional parties, serve the larger congregation in a variety of ways and conduct local and special summer service projects.

Both UMYF groups meet on **Sunday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.** We begin our time together with a short worship service, then break into our respective age groups for that evening’s activities. All middle school and high school youth are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and fun!

Director of Youth Ministry and Congregational Life:
Jen McClurg
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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Commissioning of the Disciples

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth had been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” *Matthew 28:16–20*

Our Vision Statement

St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church is an inclusive, vibrant congregation that shares the love of Christ and makes a difference in the World.

Youth Church School Classes beginning September 11 at 9:45 a.m.

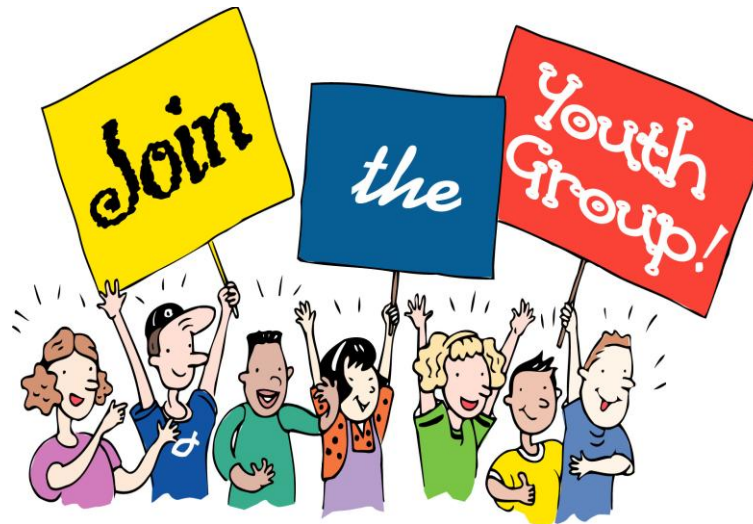
Middle School (Grades 6–8) – Middle school will be using the *Claim the Life* curriculum and will spend this semester focusing on faith. Each week we will look at a key word and invite our students to develop “deeper understanding, new appreciation and greater meaning for their lives” by understanding how that word is a part of our faith journey.

Leader: Bob Lesche

Location: Room 222

High School (Grades 9–12) – High school will be focusing on different aspects of life and how Christ and the church can play a role in “real life situations”. In October, in conjunction with our church-wide Stewardship campaign, we will look at the *Enough* book and discuss stewardship in our own lives.

Leaders: Clare Carhart, Steve Hill **Location:** Room 226



Confirmation

Confirmation classes for Eighth Graders will be offered during the second semester. Watch for details later.

Vision for Christian Formation

The Christian Formation Committee will work

- ✦ To develop a comprehensive discipleship plan for Christian Formation for all ages;
- ✦ To assess, plan, implement and evaluate classes, courses, and small groups for children, youth and adults that help them grow in their relationship with God;
- ✦ To coordinate Church school, children’s church, mid-week small groups and classes, and other educational and spiritual growth opportunities;
- ✦ To work with age level committees and ministries in developing the comprehensive discipleship plan.

Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministries:
Rev. Kathy Wadsley
kathy.stmatthews-bowie@verizon.net

September 8, 2011