

Sunday morning for Children

8 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist

Your family is welcome to join this more intimate service.

10 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist

This is a communion service with full choir and music. When Church School is scheduled, children are encouraged to attend starting at 9:50 am and lasting through the Lessons, Gospel and sermon (until approximately 10:40 a.m.). After Church School, they are led into the service at the Peace so that they can share Holy Communion with their families and community. When Church School is not scheduled, families are encouraged to bring their children to the service. Please join our coffee hour in the Parish Hall immediately after the service for delicious refreshments!

Worshipping with your child

Children are an integral part of the community's worship life. Young children learn about worship by participating in it. Picture books, children's worship bulletins, materials for quiet play, paper and markers are helpful resources for busy hands. These may be found on the shelves in the rear of the church.

Once children are old enough, they are encouraged to help lead worship by serving as an acolyte, or by singing in the choir. On select Sundays, the entire 10 am service is especially designed for child and youth participation and features a children's sermon.

Each Sunday, everyone is invited to the altar rail to receive either Holy Communion or a blessing from a Priest. Adults and children who prefer to receive a blessing are asked to cross their hands over their chest.

Special Holidays and Celebrations

A variety of special celebrations and activities geared towards families and children take place throughout the year. Families reconnect at Sundae Sunday (September 14) and backpacks are blessed at the Blessing of the Backpacks (September 21). Pets and stuffed animals alike are blessed during the Blessing of the Animals (October 5). Additional opportunities for fellowship include the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (February 17), Choral Evensong – Marie Stultz Memorial Concert (May 31), and other family activities throughout the year.

Christian Formation for Children

CHURCH SCHOOL *Pre-K through 5th Grade*

9:50 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Our Church School is a thriving community!

Currently, all children in grades Pre-K-5 are invited to participate in Church School that takes place in the Education Wing on Sunday mornings. Families may sign in their children at 9:50 a.m. The lesson will be led by two parent volunteers. Parents with younger toddlers and babies may attend with their children. The children are then led into the church to join their families for Holy Communion at approximately 10:40 a.m.

The main approach to children's formation used at Christ Church is the Montessori-based *Godly Play* program, a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages children in what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting them into Scripture and spiritual experience, modeling the worship life, stories, symbols, and rituals of Christian congregations.

Contact Josephine Nason: josmcc23@yahoo.com or call 781-775-9179

BAPTISM – offered Nov. 2, Jan. 11, April 4, April 12, May 24

Preparation of parents and godparents for the baptism of a child is an important step in the formation of Christian households and in the passing on of the faith to our children. Our goal in this class is to help individuals understand the commitment to raising children in the Christian life and faith and to give them tools to help in this process. Parents of those to be baptized are required to attend. Childcare with snacks will be provided as needed.



Contact Reverend Michael: mhodes@christchurchandover.org

COMMUNION ENRICHMENT *2nd Grade and above*

This is a wonderful tradition in our parish! The program is designed for children and their parents to reflect on the sacrament of Holy Communion. The classes will meet on May 3 and 10 at 9:00 a.m. The program includes an on-site hands-on Saturday retreat on May 16 during which children bake communion bread, arrange altar flowers, and prepare the church for worship. Children and their families celebrate Communion together in church at a special service on May 17.

Contact Reverend Michael: mhodes@christchurchandover.org or call 978-475-0529, ext. 11

Children's Ministries in Music

CHOIRS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ANGEL CHOIR *Kindergarten – 2nd Grade*

The children build a music foundation through singing and playing musical games. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 4-4:30 p.m. beginning September 25th. The Angel Choir sings every six weeks at the 10 a.m. service and at the Christmas Eve and Easter services.



ST. CECILIA CHORISTERS *3rd – 8th Grade*

Any girl or boy with an unchanged voice is welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity for children not only to gain knowledge and love of music but also to develop their self-esteem and confidence. Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons from 4:30- 5:30 p.m. beginning September 18th. The choir sings a variety of music from the Anglican tradition to spirituals, jazz, classical, and newly commissioned works. The children sing monthly at the 10 a.m. service and at special services including Advent Lessons and Carols on November 30th and Marie Stultz Legacy Concert on May 31st.

SCHOLA *6th – 12th Grade*

This is a select group of experienced young singers with unchanged voices. Auditions are required and will be held on Thursday, September 18th from 5:30-6 p.m. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning September 25th. Special music will be prepared for Sundays, choir festivals, concerts, evensongs, and tours.

For information about any of these choirs, contact Barbara Bruns, Minister of Music: bbruns@christchurchandover.org or call 978-475-0529, ext. 20

ST. MATTHEW'S GUILD OF ACOLYTES -4th-12th Grade

Acolytes in the church learn about Church traditions, help during the worship service, and get to play with fire! Acolytes serve at the altar at the 10 a.m. service on Sundays and on other special occasions. Training is offered year-round. Acolytes also gather seasonally for fun and fellowship. *Contact Holly Jarrell-Marcinelli: 917-757-8310.*

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT Ages baby – 6th Grade

Rehearsals begin in December after the 10 a.m. service. This Christmas Eve pageant is a sacred tradition at Christ Church! There are appropriate roles for children of all ages and levels of comfort with public speaking. Rehearsals include a brief singing rehearsal (5 to 10 minutes) with all the children. Youth with speaking parts stay and continue rehearsing for 20 minutes after the singing. *Watch for more info in our e-Prophet!*

Youth Ministries

At Christ Church, the nurture and formation of young people in the Christian faith is the duty and delight of the whole congregation.

YOUTH GROUPS 9th – 12th Grade

Youth Group is open to all 9th - 12th graders no matter where they may be on their spiritual journey. The group honors the importance of each individual member and the unique gifts each member brings to our youth community. The youth participate in activities that offer opportunities to explore our Christian traditions, experience the grace of Christian community and serve others both in our church and the larger community. Having fun and relaxing is a very important part of every youth gathering. Youth Group meetings are held on select Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Youth are invited to join the group at any time during the year. *Contact Kathy Serrano: 978-809-9848*

CONFIRMATION 9th – 12th Grade

Confirmation invites young people to claim for themselves the promises made on their behalf at baptism. Classes to prepare for Confirmation begin several months before the Confirmation services. Generally, the classes are held on Sunday evenings, beginning in the fall and continuing through the program year. The next Confirmation class will be offered in fall 2025.

Contact Reverend Michael: mhodges@christchurchandover.org

Children's Calendar 2025-2026

September

14

Registration after 10 a.m. service

21

Sundae Sunday – ice cream for all!

Church School Classes begin - 9:50 a.m.

Blessing of the Backpacks

All-Parish Picnic!

Church School

28

October

5

Church School, Blessing of the Animals

19, 26

Church School

November

2

Church School and Baptisms

9, 16, 23

Church School

30

Advent Lessons & Carols at 5 p.m.

December

7, 14, 21

Church School

24

Christmas Pageant at 4 p.m.

January

11

Church School and Baptisms

25

Church School

February

1, 8

Church School

17

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March

1, 8, 15 Church School

29

Church School – Palm Sunday

April

5

Easter Sunday with Egg Hunt

12

Church School and Baptisms

May

3, 10,

Church School

17

Communion Enrichment Sunday

24

Church School, Pentecost and Baptisms

31

Last Church School Class

Appreciation of Church School Teachers

and Youth Group Leaders

Marie Stultz Legacy Concert at 3 p.m.

June

7

Choir and Acolyte Recognitions

The Parish of Christ Church Children and Youth Ministries 2025-2026

We welcome you and your family!



*Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

A Prayer for the Care of Children, *The Book of Common Prayer*

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