



First Congregational Church of River Edge

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August 2021

Dear Church School Families,

I hope you had a terrific summer and are looking forward to getting your children back to a more normal church school year. We will continue to use a curriculum that will allow all children to learn together in the same space as a church family. As always, our teachers continue to be committed to providing your children with a comprehensive, fun, and nurturing religious education. I am looking forward to a year filled with friends, faith, fellowship, and lots of learning in our new environment!

FCC will be welcoming the children back on **Sunday September 26, 2021**. It has yet to be determined if we will be Commissioning our teachers that Sunday; let's plan on meeting in Pilgrim Hall by 9:50 am. I have some fun activities planned for our children to welcome them back to church school!

Our Church School teaches the main tenets of the Christian faith. This includes the appreciation and understanding of our worship, scriptures, rituals, seasons, and prayers. It teaches us to follow in the kind footsteps of Jesus. We emphasize caring for and service to others. I am very excited to be able to incorporate more hands-on group activities that we were unable to do last year. These lessons will allow the children to ignite their curiosity through bible stories and activities.

Following the UCC's recommendation, we will continue wearing masks indoors until further notice. I intend to do as many activities outdoors as possible as long as the weather permits. Temperature checks will continue for children under 12 and those unvaccinated. Children will still sit in family pods but will be able to safely participate in group activities.

Since singing is again not permitted in the sanctuary, the children's choir will not be active for the time being. I will keep all posted on any developments.

Our congregation is committed to creating a church space where everyone feels safe, loved, and respected. We follow a "*Safe Church*" policy to prevent abuse or harassment. Those wishing to know more about this policy may obtain a copy of the congregation's "*Trust With Care*" booklet through the church office.

Please be sure to complete the attached Church School Registration form for each child. The document can be filled out, saved then submitted to nbabington@fccriveredge.org.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday, September 26. If you wish to contact me prior to the beginning of Church School, you may email me at nbabington@fccriveredge.org or call 201-261-1712.

Enjoy this "Back to School" season.

Nicole Babington
Minister for Faith Formation