

Penn Yan United Methodist Church Sunday School Youth Handbook 2018-2019

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Penn Yan United Methodist Church

Making Disciples...Making a Difference

*Gathering,
Growing,
Going into the world.*



Worship Services

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday Break Service: 9:00 am

Traditional Service: 11:00 am

Sunday School:

Pre-K—Grade 5—9:15 am

High School—10:15 am

Dear Families of our Children & Youth:

Welcome to another exciting year of Sunday School and Youth activities. As always, we are grateful to God for our dedicated team of Sunday School teachers, helpers, youth leaders, and substitutes. Their caring ways and special talents are instrumental in guiding our young people to know and experience God's unconditional love. Without them, we would be unable to provide the quality program that we believe we offer.

We welcome you to participate in our children's Christian Education in any way you can, and we invite you to join our team. We always need helpers, special program leaders and substitutes. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or any one of us.

Christian Education Director:
Linda Snyder



Director of Youth, Young Adults & Families:
Ryan Webb

Christian Education Team Members:
Betsey Comstock, Stan Comstock, Sirene Garcia, Maria Gray, Anne Habeeb, Inga Hoffman, Shirley Owens, Mary Pierce, Nicole Reynolds, Jeanne Schuck



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Address: 166 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Church Website: www.pyumc.org

Church Office Email: pennyanumc@gmail.com

Office Telephone Number: (315) 536-6711

Office Fax Number: (315) 536-8415



OTHER TELEPHONE & EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Rev. Jeff Childs: C: (315) 729-4464
revchilds@outlook.com

Others from the team??

2018-2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

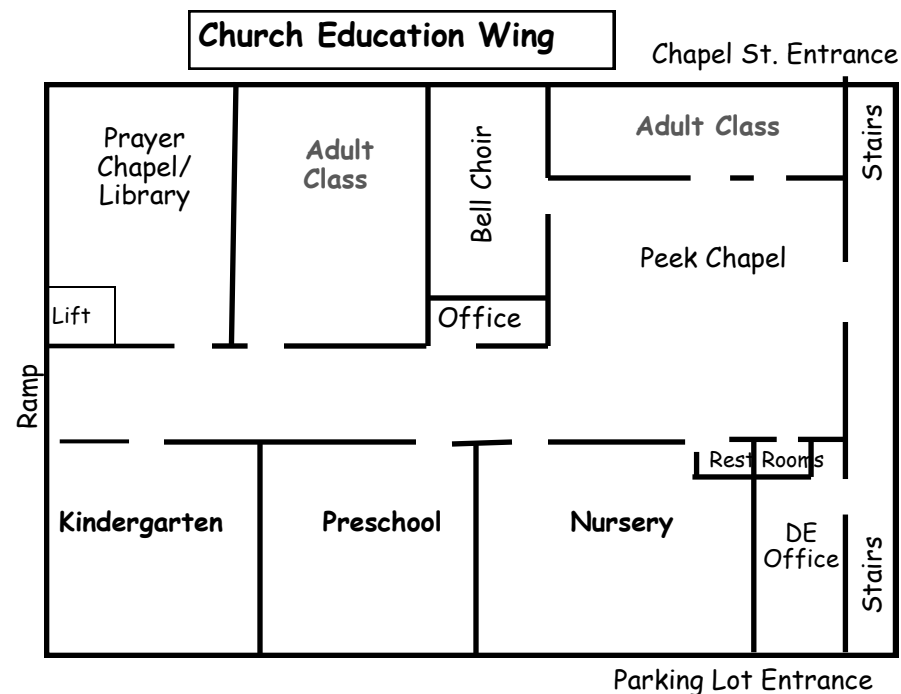
9/9 - Rally Day— start of Sunday School
 10/28 - Bible Sunday for third graders
 11/13 - **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Deadline**
 11/17 - Upper NY West CCYM Fall Gathering
 11/25-12/9—Socks & Underwear Mission Project
 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23—Advent Sundays
 12/6, 12/7, & 12/10—Half Day Happenings
 12/23 - 12/30 —NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 February—Confirmation classes begin
 3/10 -4/14—**Heifer Lenten Mission Project**
 3/18 & 3/19—Half Day Happenings
 4/5-4/7—UPWORD '19 Youth Gathering
 4/21— Easter Sunday NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 5/29—**Last Day of Sunday School Celebration**
 6/11 —Confirmation

Camping Sunday To Be Determined



Teaching Teams:

Nursery: Amber MacMillan, Courtney Ottaviano, Ashley Smith, Johannah Marchenese, Elizabeth Ortiz
Preschool: Betsey Comstock, Judy Hillyard
Kindergarten: Meredith Marsh, Deja Glover
Grades 1 & 2: Cherie Zeller, Brennan Dailey, Jennalyn Conley
Grade 3, 4 & 5: Marilyn Pinneo, Colin Weichenthal
Middle School: Shirley Owens, Nancy Zwetsch, Dan Rowe
High School Bible Study: Ryan Web, Leah Webb, Dan Rowe
Faithful Substitutes: Maryanne Cooper, Sue Rose, Anne Glazier, Garrett Warren



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Summer Church Camp

All PYUMC children have the opportunity to attend a United Methodist Summer Camp, where they experience an entirely new relationship with God. Our church supports campers with finances, prayers and letters. We encourage all scholarship recipients to participate in church and fundraising activities.

Half Day Happenings

During both fall and spring parent-teachers conference days, PYUMC offers to all elementary children a fun, safe, and free faith-based afternoon program that is designed to fill child care needs when elementary students have a half day of school. Activities include: crafts, games, stories, songs, and snacks. Registration forms are distributed at the elementary schools, and the PYCSD provides busing to our program.

Vacation Bible School

PYUMC has plans to continue providing Vacation Bible School for our church and community children during the summer in cooperation with other area churches. We have had wonderful servants who share their talents and love with our children, and who are willing to help again next summer. We hope you will join us!

Middle School Class

Youth in grades six through eighth will meet each Sunday morning at 9:30 on the third floor of the Memorial Building. Students will be studying various meditations for teens and helping with our many mission projects.

BIBLE WORK

For many years, Sunday School Teachers have been encouraging our young people to become familiar with some important scriptures that accompany the Bible stories they learn. It is our hope that this will help even our smallest children to have a meaningful connection with the Bible and God's Word. Parents are encouraged to work with their children at home, hopefully making this acquisition of scripture knowledge a fun family endeavor. You may have a favorite verse that you learned as a child, and might share that with your family. If any family needs a Bible, please let your child's teacher know. We will be glad to provide one for you.

Below are some **suggested memory work** for each grade level:

Pre-K:

1 John 4:19

Kindergarten,
First & Second Grade

John 3:16
The Lord's Prayer
Luke 18:16

Third Grade, Fourth,
& Fifth Grade

The Lord's Prayer
The Books of the
Old & New Testament
Matthew 22:37-39
The Ten Commandments
The Beatitudes
Psalm 23
Psalm 100

Are Bibles given out in Sunday School?

Bibles are given to third graders and older children who have not previously received one. Bibles will be presented at a special Sunday service on October 28. If your child is a third grader who misses class on that day, or an older student who somehow missed out on receiving a Bible of their own, please speak to his/her teacher. It is our pleasure to provide our students with their very own Bibles!

How can I become more involved?

No matter how old or young your children are, there are plenty of opportunities for you to support their Christian education! Your interest in your child's Sunday School lessons is one of the most basic ways. If you are available to help on an occasional

Sunday, we could always use extra hands in any of our classrooms. Please consider being one of our substitute teachers to fill in when needed, or perhaps being a regular weekly assistant. Please contact **Linda Snyder** if you wish to serve in any of these capacities. You can also show your support by helping "behind the scenes" by volunteering to send snacks or needed supplies. Finally, we can always use more fresh ideas on our Christian Education Team. **We meet in the Christian Ed. office on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, and we welcome you to attend as a visitor or a new member.**



Confirmation Class

Each year, PYUMC offers classes from February to June for youth in seventh grade and above who wish to learn more about the United Methodist Church and what we believe. The class is a collaboration with other UM churches in the area. Students then have the opportunity to become members in the faith through confirmation. And the opportunity to attend other churches where their classmates are confirmed

Small Group Studies for High School Students

Ryan Webb will be offering Bible studies throughout the school year on Sundays at 10:30 for our high school students, many of whom assist younger children during the Sunday school hour. Please check you bulletin for topics.

****Ryan Webb is also planning some exciting events and mission projects for our youth through the school year, so please watch for more information to come.**

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Colin Weichenthal, Jennalyn Conley and Breenan Dailey are representing our church on the Upper NY CCYM. PYUMC youth have the opportunity to attend two Upper New York youth gatherings this school year—The *Fall Gathering* on Saturday, November 17 at the Bath UMC in Rochester and *UPWORD* on April 5-7 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Syracuse/Liverpool. These events feature worship, workshops, fellowship and entertainment. Each year a large group of youth from Penn Yan have attended and thoroughly enjoyed these events.

MISSION PROJECTS

Our Christian Education program provides opportunities for children to express their commitment to Christian principles through giving to missions in our own community and around the world. If you have an interest in one of these missions and would like to help promote it, please let us know. Watch your CHIMES and worship bulletin for more information. Our Sunday School students and youth will support the following mission projects this year:

Operation Christmas Child: September—November
Thanksgiving Baskets: November 1—November 15
Socks & Underwear: November 27—December 11
Heifer Project: During Lent



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What time does Sunday school begin and end?

Sunday School students begin their morning at the Sunday Break service at 9:00am. At approximately 9:15 children will leave the service together to attend their respective classes. Sunday School ending time is 9:50 am. **Please feel free to enjoy our coffee hour and fellowship in the downstairs Fellowship Hall as you wait for students to be released.**

What curriculum is used in Sunday School?

Our preschool through grade 2 classes, will use our United Methodist curriculum called "**Deep Blue**". It is a well-designed program intended to provide long-range development of Christian faith following the beliefs of the United Methodist Church. Students in grades 3 through 5 will be learning from the **HeartShaper** curriculum which is focused on helping kids love God and His Word. The program promotes Biblical literacy which is important at this age, as our students will be learning to use their Bibles in class.

What health and safety accommodations and precautions are in place at Sunday School?

Maintaining your child's well-being while he/she is in Sunday School is a responsibility that we take seriously. We require that children through grade 2 be signed out of their classroom by a parent. We also adhere to a "Safe Sanctuary Policy" written according to United Methodist Annual Conference guidelines, which requires us to maintain certain standards, including conducting a background check on all of our teachers, substitutes, and classroom helpers. (Please see Linda Snyder for a copy.) Additionally, we have emergency first aid kits and evacuation procedures in place. Finally, we encourage you to let us know, either on your **FAMILY INFORMATION FORM** or in person, if he/she has any special dietary needs, allergies, health problems, learning disabilities, or behavioral concerns so that we can be aware of such issues and do our best to accommodate your child.

How are discipline issues handled in class?

Classroom teachers strive to maintain a peaceful and respectful learning environment in which all students can receive the full benefit of the Sunday School experience.

Discipline issues are handled as quietly and discreetly as possible, using low-key strategies such as redirection, assigned seating, and the encouragement of Christian behavior. Parents of children who do not respond to our efforts, will be asked to come get their child. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have a questions regarding this.

Is my child expected to bring an offering?

We encourage learning about stewardship with our students, however it is in no way a requirement. An offering is quietly taken every Sunday in each classroom. The offering is added to our annual budget that provides our teaching materials, supplies, Camperships, Bibles, graduation gifts, camp scholarships, etc.