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## TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER 2008

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From the desk of...

Traditions are present in every family. Some traditions are long standing and some are new to your family. Traditions can be involved or a simple gesture and can be incorporated into any facets of our lives any time of the year. If you were to list all your family traditions, I'll bet you would need to sharpen your pencil after awhile. I am sure we can all agree traditions promote a sense of security and comfort and are therefore precious to us.

Including intentional Christian traditions into your home life is an important way to keep a strong connection between church and your family, as well as fostering your children's faith. Most likely you have Christmas and other Christian holiday family traditions already in place; using Advent calendars, sharing Easter dinner with extended family or volunteering at a food pantry over the holidays. Perhaps you share grace before a family dinner or say bedtime prayers. Here are some other ways you can bring Christianity into your home life.

- Celebrate the beginning of each church season by using placemats in liturgical colors.
- Light a special candle during a meal (how about breakfast?) to remind everyone that Jesus is the light of the world.
- Read the Nativity story before opening Christmas presents.
- Create a family prayer that you can say when traveling in the car in the event you see an ambulance or squad car, a car accident or someone in need.
- Brainstorm with your kids to come up with additional ways to bring faith into your home.

Your children will come to rely on the traditions and many little blessings of daily life, cycles and seasons, and family events to help them recognize God's hand in the midst of every day. And perhaps one day they will have children of their own to share with.

Peace,

Carrie

# November

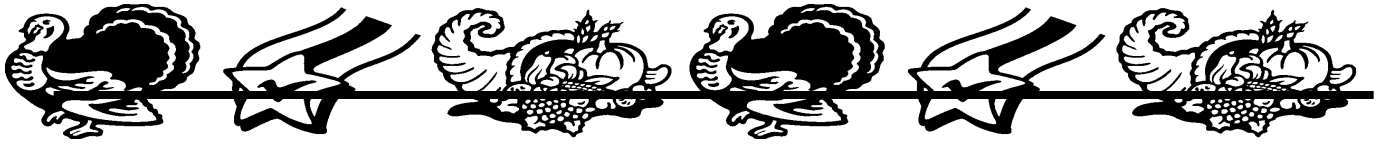
<u>Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	
Church School	10:00AM
7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bike Trip	2:00PM
<u>Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	
Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
CE Committee Meeting	8:00PM
<u>Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup></u>	
Church School	10:00AM
5/6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling	3:00PM
<u>Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup></u>	
Mandatory Winter Teacher Training	7:30PM
<u>Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup></u>	
Family Worship	10:00AM
Kindergarten Bible Sunday	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	
<u>Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></u>	
Church School	10:00AM
Teaching Workshop	11:15AM
<u>Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup></u>	
Advent One Room Schoolhouse	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	

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## WINTER TEACHER ORIENTATIONS

Mandatory Meeting, Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 7PM  
Optional Workshop, Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:15AM



We are offering two teacher meetings to prepare and empower winter teachers. Each serves a different purpose. All teachers are expected to attend the mandatory meeting on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Akaloo is completely different curriculum in both mission and usage from any other curriculum we have used in the past. This meeting will review how to use the website, how to build lesson plans and use Akaloo classroom props. Even if you have taught in the fall your experience is invaluable to others on your teaching team. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers

will attend a separate meeting led by Nancy DiRomualdo, our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Liaison.

For those of you who are newer to teaching in our program or who would like a policy and/or classroom procedure refresher course or teacher training tips it is recommended that you attend the optional workshop following worship on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Safe Church training will be offered that day for anyone participating in our program who has not been CORIed (Criminal Offender Record Information). The law states you must be CORIed and trained before working with our kids in any capacity.

### Kindergarten Bibles Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

On this special morning our Kindergarteners will receive their "First Bible Story Book". This beautifully illustrated picture book shares 13 special stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Please have your child at church by 9:40AM that morning so we can gather together and enter the church as a group. If you did not receive a postcard about your child's storybook, please contact Carrie O'Brien as soon as possible.



Kindergarten  
Bible Sunday

### "Advent" One Room Schoolhouse Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

The first day of Advent falls on the same day as our One Room Schoolhouse. How appropriate! So it makes perfect sense to launch the first season of the Christian liturgical calendar by continuing our tradition of making Advent calendars. Older children will be paired with younger children working together on their projects and getting to know one another in this season of fellowship. Childcare will be provided in our nursery for children Pre-School age and younger. Thank you Claire Wilcox, Jean Colbert, Bar and Bart Littlefield and Sue Henderson for leading this fun morning.



### TRI-CON CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

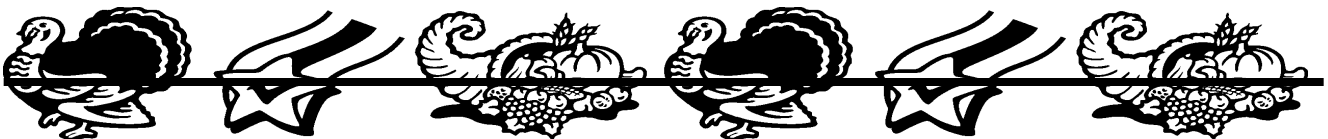
It is our mission to intentionally provide to all of the children in our Church School program the following:

Provide our children with a foundation in Christian education such as learning the stories of the Bible, the history of Christianity and what it means to be a UCC member, and the components of worship.

Provide our children with many opportunities to participate in our church community and programs outside our community.

Provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment with other children and adults.

Teach our children the important faith traits such as generosity, responsibility, courage, joy, stewardship and humility so that they will include and apply them to their daily lives.



**Angel Breakfast – Sunday, December 7 (change of date). Watch for more information!**

Happy November Birthday Wishes to...

Catherine Lilly  
Audrey Feigh  
Anna Bruning  
Nicholas Roos  
Lucy Lannan  
William O'Brien  
Kimmie Colbert

Hallie Nelson  
Wyatt Powell  
Sarah Means  
Grace Campbell  
Chase Parker  
Emily Mushlitz

Rachel Ehlers  
Julia Veitch  
Evelyn Freund  
Christopher Johnston  
Drew Freund  
Margaret Giles

Jack Bowen  
Adair Olney  
Meg Wilson  
Kara Wilson  
Ben Meyer  
Chip Silver



Have you logged onto Akaloo (our new Church School curriculum) yet??

All parents are encouraged to log onto our Akaloo website and become familiar with all it's offerings. All of our Church School calendar activities, event, announcements and curriculum are listed so please use this website to get information about our program. If you have registered your family this year you should have received an email invitation from Akaloo. Please contact Carrie O'Brien if you have any questions or need help logging on.



Our Middle School Youth Group Program is off and running with Sue Fulshaw (5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison) and Jen Hart (7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison) leading the charge. We already had a great group of kids hike through Purgatory Chasm early in October. And Sue Fulshaw treated the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders to an evening of cake decorating fun... with all (sugar laden) cakes donated to our UNICEF Cake Walk.

Check out what's coming up this month...

7/8th Grade Bike Trip, Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Before too long it will be time to hang up our bikes and wax our skis. Don't miss what might be the last ride of the season. Jen Hart has discovered an "out of the way" bike trail right here in our neck of the woods. Plan on meeting at 2:00 p.m. for a two hour ride. RSVP to Jen Hart at 978-318-0068 or [jencardhart@aol.com](mailto:jencardhart@aol.com) to attend and find out where the secret location is. She'd love some adult company, too.

5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling, Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders let us know that they want to bowl! We aim to please...so this great suggestion is included in our list of Youth Group events. The Acton Bowladrome is the spot for this fun 3 - 5PM activity. Marcia Ackley is heading up this event so please contact her and let her know that your child will attend. She can be reached at [ackleykel@aol.com](mailto:ackleykel@aol.com). More information will follow.

We have other ideas coming together and an opportunity for the 7/8<sup>th</sup> Graders to help at the Pine Street Inn coming up in January. More information to come...

In the meantime, do you have a great idea for a Youth Group activity? Please contact either Sue [stful@aol.com](mailto:stful@aol.com) or Jen [jencardhart@aol.com](mailto:jencardhart@aol.com) and they will help you make your idea become a reality.