



TRI-CON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER 2009

From the desk of...

As we continue through the season of *Common Time* and prepare for the season of *Advent*, we remember the many blessings in our lives. November is filled with multiple opportunities of reflection on thanks. The month begins with *All Saints Day* on November 1st; this day celebrates persons who lived in the past and those living today who follow in the footsteps of Christ. We then move on to November 8th, *Mission Sunday*: this is a day of reflection upon the many blessings offered by our Church. We show our gratitude to Christ through giving back to those who are less fortunate. The pinnacle of our thanks is on November 26th, *Thanksgiving Day*. On this special day we are grateful for our family, our friends and the wonderful fellowship we share.

Thanksgiving brings us no gifts of splendor but merely the simplicity of food and fellowship. This special day brings neither agenda nor expectations, just the sharing of joy. This is a day when we can extend ourselves by inviting friends and family to come together as one. In this spirit, we welcome you to try the following activity. We hope this will spawn healthy conversation and intentionally create deeper family and friend relationships. Where better to chat than at the dining room table on this special day dedicated to thanksgiving. I offered this project a couple of years ago and thought it would be worth repeating.

THANKSGIVING CHAIN

What you will need:

- Colored construction paper (one color per family member)
- Scissors
- Scotch Tape
- Pen or pencil for writing

Activity:

Pre-cut "11 x 1" strips of each color. Place strips of paper, along with pens or pencils, in an easily accessible place, i.e.: kitchen table. Once a day, perhaps at dinnertime, ask each person to write on their colored strip something they are grateful for. Loop each strip to form a ring (with the message on the inside) and secure with tape. Insert the next day's strip through the 1st and tape. Continue adding to your chain each day. By Thanksgiving you should have a nice, long, colorful chain to add to your holiday decorations. If you have friends visiting on Thanksgiving Day, invite them to participate by offering them strips to write on and add them to your chains. At some point during your meal dismantle the chains and ask everyone to read their blessings. We hope that this exercise will bring grace to your Thanksgiving table.

Peace!

November

Sunday, November 1st

Church School	10:00AM
Junior Choir Rehearsal	11:15AM

Monday, November 2nd

Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
CE Committee Meeting	8:15PM

Sunday, November 8th

Church School	10:00AM
Junior Choir in Worship	10:00AM
Davis Farmland	tbd

Friday, November 13th

Kid's Night Out	5:30PM
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Sunday, November 15th

Church School	10:00AM
Kindergarten Bibles	10:00AM
Junior Choir in Worship	10:00AM

Tuesday, November 17th

Winter Teacher Orientation	7:00PM
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Sunday, November 22nd

Church School	10:00AM
No Junior Choir Rehearsal	
Heroes Musical	11:30AM
Heroes Cast Party	5:00PM

Sunday, November 29th

"Advent" One Room Schoolhouse	10:00AM
Childcare provided (up to age five)	
Junior Choir Rehearsal	11:15AM

Trinitarian Congregational Church

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Carrie O'Brien, Church School Director



Kid's Night Out

Featuring *Elisa Pearmain*, professional storyteller

Friday, November 13th, 5:30PM



The Christian Education Committee has planned a fun night for families. We will have pizza, games, arts and crafts, music, and a special story time featuring Elisa Pearmain, professional storyteller and award winning author. In order to make sure we have enough food for everyone, please RSVP by Thursday, 11/12 to Trish Siefer at thesiefers@gmail.com or call the church office

at 978-369-4837. All families are welcome. (Activities are designed for children pre-school age to 4th grade.) Thank you CE Committee for sponsoring this entertaining evening!

Kindergarten Bibles

Sunday, November 15th

On this special morning our Kindergarteners will receive a copy of "My Very First Bible" storybook. This beautifully illustrated picture book geared for young audiences shares 25 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 class.



WINTER TEACHER ORIENTATIONS

Mandatory Meeting, Tuesday, November 17th, 7PM

Optional Workshop, Sunday, November 22nd, 11:15AM



We are offering two teacher meetings for all winter teachers. Each serves a different purpose. *All* teachers are expected to attend the mandatory meeting on Wednesday the 12th. Even if you have taught in the fall your experience is invaluable to others on your teaching team.

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 22nd. Safe Church training will be offered that day for anyone participating in our program who has not been CORId (Criminal Offender Record Information). Our Safe Church policy states you must be CORId and trained *before* working with our kids in *any* capacity.

Middle School "Heroes" Musical Performance

Sunday, November 22nd, 11:30AM

Our Middle School Heroes musical is just around the corner! This fall, the combined class of 6th, 7th and 8th graders has explored individuals who have or are devoting their lives to helping others and who, through their actions, teach us how to live out our lives as Christians. Under the direction of musician Rene Pfister, the kids have used their research to write, stage and produce a terrific musical, perhaps worthy of a TONY! Join us for this first class production (and support our kid's efforts) following the 10AM service on November 22nd.



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.



“Advent” One Room Schoolhouse Sunday, November 29th

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. We need four adults to help lead this program. Please contact Carrie O'Brien.



Happy November Birthday Wishes to...

Catherine Lilly
Audrey Feigh
Anna Bruning
Nicholas Roos
Luey Lannan
Kimmie Colbert

Hallie Nelson
Abigail Wester
Amy Hoaglund
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



Davis Farmland Mega Maze Sunday, November 8th

6th, 7th and 8th Graders...come challenge your wits at the Mega Maze (guaranteed to be more fun than any computer or video game!). With more than three miles of pathways and bridges, New England's largest maze offers eight acres of fun!

Our group is eligible for a special group rate of \$9.95, 25% off the general admission price. We need drivers and chaperones. Please RSVP to Sue Fulshaw at stful@comcast.net by Friday, November 6th.

In the meantime, to prepare for the challenge go to this link with practice mazes and puzzles...
<https://www.davisfarmland.com/megamaze/images/activity-sheets.pdf>

Heroes “Musical” Cast Party Sunday, November 22nd

Calling all Actors, Singers, Artists, Script Writers, Prop Makers, Costumer Designers and non-Participants...

The kids have worked hard this fall producing their class musical! Now it is time to celebrate their efforts. Please join us for a cast party!

Whether or not you participated in the middle school "Heroes" production, please come to our Cast Party on Sunday, Nov. 22nd from 5:00 - 6:30 PM at the church. We'll have dinner, dessert and a quick movie!

RSVP to Leslie at leslie@mahoneyarchitects.com.

Don't forget to check out our new Church School bulletin board...located in the first floor hallway leading to the Church School wing from the parish hall. Congratulations to Carson Detweiler and Drew Freund for guessing the correct Bible Story... *Jesus' Birth!* Bible Story Guessing Game changes every two weeks so everyone has a chance to play...and win!

