

There are child protection policies in place. A copy of our policy is available upon request from the Director, Kim Kennedy. Please be sure to obtain a copy to know how your child is protected. All volunteers are required to sign an information form prior to their service. This is designed to ensure the safety of every child. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Kennedy or Corrine Sternberg, Chair of Board of Christian Education.

Be sure to tell your child's teacher about any important medical or personal concerns that you have regarding your child. Also be sure to list your concerns on the registration form.



Sunday School Handbook 2014-2015 Third Congregational Church



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Dear Parents and Students,
I hope that you have all had a great summer. So many of our students attended our VBS program and had a great time. I look forward to seeing all of your children this fall.

We have made some changes in our policies and a new program this year. Please be sure to read through the handbook to familiarize yourself with the changes. If you wish to discuss any changes, I am always available.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at 860-343-0020 or at kimkennedy0628@gmail.com. We welcome any and all involvement in our program. The BCE meets each month on the third Sunday at 11:15AM unless noted in the bulletin. Please join us.

God Bless,
Kim Kennedy



All students (including nursery) must be registered and all forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Forms are available from your child's teacher or Kim Kennedy.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

Nursery

The nursery is available during morning worship service for infants and toddlers up to age 4 years. The nursery is located at the back of the education wing, across from the restrooms. The nursery is staffed most Sundays except holidays. Children in the nursery should be registered on their first visit to help us contact you in the event of an emergency and to keep you informed of events happening in the Sunday school. We have a strict no food policy in the nursery due to allergy concerns. The staff will give a child a bottle if necessary. There is a weekly sign in sheet outside the nursery door. It is important that children are signed in due to a possible emergency. We feel it is important that children who may be ill, should be kept at home or in the sanctuary in order to keep other children away from any illnesses. The staff requests that parents leave enough, diapers, wipes and a change of clothes for children who are not potty trained. If you have any questions, please see Jennifer Smith or Kim Kennedy.

Attendance

It is important to come as many weeks as possible. The Sunday school is treated as a community within the church. Faith learning and social interaction is important to that community. **The Board has decided to no longer offer pins for attendance.** It is becoming very hard to find the correct pins and more expensive each year. Each Sunday the student is in attendance, they will be given a raffle ticket to complete. Each month at prayer circle we will pick two winners of a small prize. The winners will need to be in attendance to win. We will offer a prize for the highest attendance at Recognition Sunday in June. If you have any questions about this new policy, please see Kim Kennedy.

Sunday School

Sunday school is held during the worship service each Sunday at 10AM. This year class will begin on September 7th which is Rally Sunday and will end on June 14th which is Recognition Sunday. Flyers will be distributed and posted monthly in our classrooms as well as emails to your homes whenever there are changes made to the schedule. It is a good idea to bring your Bible to class each week. The teachers will let you know if any other materials are needed for class, this is not a regular occurrence. We do ask that you remember to bring a canned good for **Amazing Grace** whenever possible. Our church supports this mission on a monthly basis. Friends are always welcome to attend class or services. The students in grades PreK through 4, and those who wish to participate, have a music lesson each week with **Mrs. Coutsouridis** and perform a few times during the year. The school community participates in Communion the first Sunday of each month as a group. We present the communion as close as possible to the way it is presented in the sanctuary, with a Deacon or Jr. Deacon serving the bread and wine. We instruct our younger students on how to accept communion at a practice in September. At this time we also invite the students and teachers to share any joys or concerns. We always end with the Lord's Prayer.

Arline Rich Scholarship

There is a scholarship available to graduating seniors each year in the amount of \$500.00. There is an application and information on the necessary steps to complete the application available in the church office or see Kim Kennedy for more details.



Vacation Bible School

VBS is a one day program from 9:00am to 3:00pm for children from ages 4 through 13. We do encourage teen volunteers and adult volunteers to help run the program. The students start their day in one of the centers of Bible Adventures, Projects, Games or Finale. It is a two part program. The students have lunch and do a craft before

heading out to do the second part of the day. It is fun for the participants and volunteers. We hope to see you **July 18, 2015** for a great day!

Tithing

We began a pilot program last year with a Tithing box. Each student was to fill the box with some change and return on Recognition Sunday. This year we will be doing this year throughout the year, this will replace the weekly offering. Tithing is considered an offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God. In giving to the church, the students will feel that they are contributing toward the many projects that we do as a church community. Each quarter, we will give the students to vote on what organization will receive the funds collected. We feel it is necessary to teach and empower the students to give. It only has to be a few nickels, quarters, dimes or pennies a week. Maybe you can use it a chore where they can keep some of the money they earn and give 10% to the church. We will be doing a few lessons throughout the year on how they can participate in the Tithing.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

Instrumentalists

Students who may be interested in sharing their talents by playing a musical instrument or singing for special celebrations are invited to join our group, Third Action. There will be practices during the year to be ready for performing. The music and dates are chosen by our Music Director, Leslie Coutsouridis. Ideas for music choices are always welcome. Please indicate your interest on the registration form or see Kim Kennedy or Mrs. Coutsouridis.

Acolytes

Acolytes bring the light into the church at the beginning of each service and bring the light of the church into the world at the end of the service. If you are in 6th through 10th grade and are interested in becoming part of this important tradition, please see Jay Fletcher or indicate your interest your registration form. Contact **Mr. Fletcher** at jayallie1@att.net.

Pilgrim Fellowship

Pilgrim Fellowship or PF is a group of students in grades **7 through 12**. We spend our time together doing community service and having fun. The idea of Pilgrim Fellowship is to encourage emotional and spiritual development with other youth, fellowship, service and leadership. Events in the past included church dinners, mission projects, outings and a lock-in. We have planned some outings with the churches in Portland and East Hampton. A trip for August is being planned. We would like to encourage families to help in planning and implementation of our

events. Please be sure to indicate your interest on the registration form. The first meeting for PF will be **September 28th** at 11:15AM. Please come and help us to plan for our fall activities. For more information, please see Kim Kennedy or Ellie Hojda.



Bible Presentation

Bibles are presented to all Third Graders by the Board of Christian Education. **This will take place on Recognition Sunday.** This is an important occasion at Third Church and we don't want to miss anyone. If you have not yet received a Bible and you are above the third grade, make sure that you indicate this on your registration form. All students entering the third grade will receive an invitation to participate in the Bible presentation on June 14th.



Confirmation

The program is a two year commitment by our students and parents. All students in **8th through 12th grade** are eligible. The students will be studying many various ideas of the Christian faith through the two year program. There will be service opportunities as well to demonstrate the Good News that they are learning. The ceremony for those that have completed the two year course will be **May 3, 2015**. We encourage all eligible students to come to the organization meeting with their parents on **September 21st at 11:00AM**. The first class will be **October 26th** at 11:30AM. The class will last approximately 1 hour and then the students will participate in the Crop Walk. The classes usually last between 1 hour and 1 1/2 hours. Please see Kim Kennedy or Pastor Norm Erlendson for more information.