

## Sunday & Other Educational Opportunities

Contributed by Skip Jackson  
 Sunday, 15 January 2017  
 Last Updated Wednesday, 18 January 2017

Christian Education for All Ages We have Sunday School Programs to fit every member of the family, regardless of age.

All church schools except Godly Play begin at 9:00 A.M. On Sept. 18, 2016, we will revisit our history as all classes step back in time to use the 1916 Sunday School curriculum from the time the Sanctuary building was dedicated. Nursery (ages 0-3) Church School, 9:00 A.M.

Godly Play, 10:30 A.M.

Adult Education Weekday study groups

NURSERY Nursery care for ages birth through 4 is available every Sunday. During the program year (Sept. to June) there is nursery care beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing through the end of the 10:30 a.m. worship service at about 11:45 a.m. (In the summer, nursery care begins at 10 a.m.) The nursery is overseen by Manju Jha, who is a certified teacher with the Indianola Children's Center.

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN

CHURCH SCHOOL, SUNDAYS, 9:00 A.M. NEW! Grab & go breakfast beginning Sept. 25. Come to the Narthex a 9 am to grab a bagel & coffee and go to your class. (Food for the young children will be taken to their classroom.) The breakfast closes at 9:15 am.

Elementary Class (grades K-5):

A multiple-intelligences approach to education will utilize literature, art, drama, music, computers, cooking, and other creative approaches to help the biblical stories come alive for children of varied age levels. Rachel Concitis leads the class using "Holy Moly" curriculum. Youth Class (grades 6-12):

The Youth Class generally meets in the Bell Tower Room. The class will offer a variety of approaches for faith exploration and spiritual development via art, music, literature, cooking, and the "reForm:Ancestry" curriculum for the New Testament. Contact Brian Roe or Jeremy Carroll for more information. The class usually takes a lead role in producing the Christmas Portrayal (aka Christmas Pageant) every year, and develops and leads a Youth Service each June.

CHURCH SCHOOL, SUNDAYS, 10:30 A.M.

Godly Play (ages 3-1st grade & 2nd-5th grades)

This Program offers two classes for ages 3-1st grade & 2nd-5th grades. Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children. The goal is to teach children the art of using religious language &mdash; parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action &mdash; to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's present in their lives. Godly Play meets in a "worship center" which is treated as "sacred space." Each session follows the pattern of the church's service with a time of preparation or getting ready, a time of listening and responding to the Word, sharing a "feast," and a time of saying good-bye and sending forth. Central to the experience is a Bible story told by the storyteller using a sensorimotor technique aided by the use of figures and equipment which engage the children's sense of sight as well as hearing. After the story is told, the storyteller and children use "wondering questions" to reflect on the story. Each child then chooses whether to respond to the story with art materials or "play" with the story materials. The feast is a time of fellowship and thanksgiving, paralleling the celebration of the Eucharist (i.e., Communion). Normally the children are dismissed to Godly Play from worship following the "Children's Sermon" time (@ approximately 10:45 a.m.). On Sundays when Communion is being celebrated in worship, the children begin in Godly Play at 10:30 a.m. and then come in to worship at approximately 11:15 a.m. to participate in the sacrament with their parents. (This replaces the "feast" time in Godly Play.)

During the summer months a program of storytelling and crafts is conducted in place of Godly Play, operating in the same timeframe with rotating volunteer leadership.

ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAYS, 9:00 A.M.

Adult Study  
 January - March

The Present Word &mdash; Bible study using PC(USA) curriculum materials to explore how the scriptures relate to everyday life. Meets in Pastors Room off Fellowship Hall. The student book will be provided.

Short Stories by Jesus (1/22 - 3/26)&mdash;We'll be reading and discussing Amy-Jill Levine's Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. Levine offers a fresh interpretation of Jesus's parables from the perspective of their original Jewish audience, tconnecting the parables to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. Meets in Thompson Lounge.

The offerings below were for 2012/2013 and are examples of the kinds of topics taken up by Adult Education classes at IPC.

September 9, 16, 23, 2012

Frank Lloyd Wright &mdash; video (9/9) & Susan Warrener Smith&rsquo;s presentation &ldquo;Truth Against the World: The Spiritual Heritage and Legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright&rdquo; (9/16 & 23)

September 30 & October 7, 14, 21

Video Series: The Gospel According to Mark (dramatic presentation of the gospel in its entirety)

October 28 & November 4, 11, 18

Fred Hitzhusen leading, &ldquo;Water: Life-Giving and Life-Threatening&rdquo;

December 2, 9, 16, 23

Celebrating Advent&mdash;history, religious practices, lectionary texts

January 6, 13, 20, 27 & February 3, 10

Video Series: Living the Questions &mdash; "Saving Jesus Redux" Sessions 1-6

February 17, 24 & March 3, 10, 17, 24 & April 7

Lenten Book Study: Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World

April 13, 20, 27 & May 5, 12, 19

Video Series: Living the Questions &mdash; "Saving Jesus Redux" Sessions 7-12      WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

Women&rsquo;s ChristCare Group:

A circle of caring with Christ at the center

2nd & 4th Mondays of each month @ 10 am

All interested women are invited to participate in this biweekly gathering of women which includes prayer, study, discussion, and sharing. Location: the church library. For more information contact Rev. Susan Warrener Smith, our Assoc. Pastor Emerita.