

{ MILESTONES OF THE FAITH }

The Milestones in Christian Formation program supplements the regular, year-round curriculum for each age/grade. From Kindergarten through High School, there is a specific milestone unit of study. Sometimes it's taught during the 9:00 hour for three to four weeks (such as the 3rd grade bible unit), and other times it might be a weekend retreat (6th grade sacrament study). Some milestones are year round opportunities such as leadership or creation care.

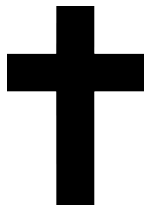


kindergarten - doxology

Children learn the words, sign language and meaning of the Doxology during the month of January.

1st grade - Lord's Prayer

Children learn the words and meaning of the Lord's Prayer as their main curriculum during the month of June.



2nd grade - "the Good News of Jesus"

Children learn the importance of Christ's life, death and resurrection during May.

3rd grade - the Bible

Children learn how the Bible came to be; how to study the Bible for themselves; and they meet with Pastor Doug to learn how he studies the Bible and prepares his sermons. After finishing this unit, the children lead a responsive reading in worship and receive their Bibles from the congregation.



4th grade - Creation Care

The children have several off site outdoor experiences learning about and caring for creation. Past trips have been to Discovery Park, Low Tide walks in West Seattle. Watch for dates.

5th grade - Servant Leadership

Children lead by serving throughout the year. Opportunities include reading Scripture in worship, leading the 4 and 5:30 Christmas Eve services, helping in a pre-school Sunday school class at Bethany or at a "Worshipping Together" event.



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6th grade – Sacraments

During Lent students attend a retreat held at the church. It begins with a shared potluck dinner with students and their parents, giving parents an opportunity to share their experiences with sacraments. Students meet with the Pastor and youth staff to learn about baptism and communion and make bread that they present to be used for communion on Sunday.

7th grade – Spiritual Disciplines

Students take a once a month class where they will have the opportunity to learn spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith. These can include prayer, pilgrimage, fasting, Sabbath, giving, silence & solitude, confession, and worship. They will be encouraged to practice these disciplines on their own and with their family.

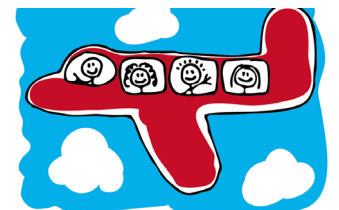


8th grade – “Questions” Hike

Students will be paired with adults in the church and go on a day hike. Students ask, then get to be asked, 20 questions that focus on our relationship with God. We hope to encourage students to reflect on their faith in middle school and build multi-generational connections in the church.

9th grade – Mission Trip

Students are invited to participate in the High School summer mission trips. The goal is to foster an interest in missions and to also connect the incoming freshman to the broader youth group community.



10th grade – Confirmation

Students explore their faith in Jesus more thoroughly through classes and meeting with a Bethany mentor. Students explore the foundations of the faith, our denomination - PC(USA) - as well as the big questions of the faith. This is done in the context of their peers, leaders, pastors, and mentors. After this process, students can be confirmed into the church by reading a statement of faith and participating in a confirmation service.

11th - 12th grade – Leadership

Students practice leadership in their final years of high school through working with younger children and middle schoolers, as well as being peer leaders and mentors through groups such as Mission Trip small groups.

