



First Parish in Lincoln Religious Exploration

*Faith discovery programs
for children and youth*

Learn Grow Explore Play

REview

Learn: Children learn what it means to be kind, caring and respectful. Love is the foundation!

Grow: Students grow in understanding of other faith traditions. We are all neighbors!

Explore: Youth explore their own beliefs, the beliefs of others and how this shapes our world. We are one!

Play: ...is the work of childhood. If the children aren't having fun, they won't want to come back. Classes feature developmentally appropriate curriculum - with a healthy dash of fun!

Curriculum and Pedagogy

Our child-centered curriculum is designed to be cumulative over weeks, sessions and years - and each class is content rich on its own.

Of course, we feel it's best when children attend regularly through several grades... we can see their development and growth of understanding.

We are delighted to have children join us when they can, so each class can stand coherently on its own.

We don't teach Sunday school... we TEACH CHILDREN!

We wonder together about what it means to be kind, inclusive, caring, understanding, creative, a good team member, a good sport...



Our Church Year in RE

 Fall: “Rally Sunday” is what we call our first Sunday of the church year - usually mid-September (this year, Sept 16th). Classes continue until the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

 December Holidays: From the Sunday after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, our children participate in various seasonal activities including Advent Workshop, a Lucia Day procession and our Christmas Pageant.

 Winter Workshops: During January and February, children of all ages meet in the Parish House for one-day workshops that might include cooking, crafting, karate, Legos... life is like a Winter Workshop, you never know what you’re going to get!

 Spring: Mid-March brings a return to “regular” classes. We continue through the first week of June and close our year with a Celebration Sunday on the 2nd Sunday in June.



Overview of Program Social Action & Activities

School Vacation Weeks and Holiday Long Weekends

When there isn't school on Monday, there aren't *classes* on Sunday... and any one of three terrific possibilities for kids are offered.

*Children and Youth begin
and remain in the
Sanctuary for family
worship -*

*Children and Youth enjoy
an activity (craft, hiking,
directed play, etc) -*

*Children and Youth
participate in a Social
Action Project -*

Children are ALWAYS welcome to stay with their parents. We hope our classes are fun and inviting. Some Sundays, we intentionally have no RE classes or activities so families may stay together in the service.

Instead of classes, grades K-5 gather for a fun activity - like a hike, a special craft, a story, directed play, etc.

We encourage students to become active community members, thoughtfully giving their time and attention to others.



Sunday morning collection for the Lincoln Food Pantry at Donelan's

Around 90 families are served each month!

February “Winter Workshop” craft - Valentines... one for someone you know, one for someone you haven’t met... yet.



A Typical Sunday Morning...

9:45am - The Nursery is open and ready to receive our youngest children - infants to pre-K

10:00am - Children join their families in the Sanctuary or will gather with their peers in the Parish House for Children's Chapel (once per month).

10:20am - Children walk up the hill or move from the Auditorium to their classrooms. They center, engage in their class content, share a snack and play.

11:15am - Children wrap up and head to the playground (in nice weather), to the Auditorium (if inclement weather) or to join the adults for after-service fellowship.

11:30am - If it's a performance week in the Spirit Players class cycle, students present their skit! (3 skits per session - fall & spring)



Overview of Program *Sunday Mornings*

Nursery Care	Babies and toddlers are cared for from 9:45 (drop-off prior to the service) until 11:30 (pick-up after hospitality time following the service). Indoor and outdoor play.
K-1	Spirit Play - children share a fun, interactive, values-based story, and are offered some craft time and snack time before going to the playground.
2-3	Spirit Players - students read and adapt the values-based stories from Spirit Play - creating and presenting their own skits.
4-5	Sacred Stories - explorers read traditional Hebrew and Christian stories and discuss them in context within historical and world cultural context.
6-7	Neighboring Faiths - students learn the basic faith beliefs and practices of various religions; then visit neighboring places of worship to see the faith in action.
YES!	Youth Engaged in Service - we ask our high school-aged young adults to serve First Parish twice per church-year: once as an usher in the Sanctuary during Sunday services and once as an assistant in the Parish House during religious ed classes.

Overview of Program *Special Sunday Mornings*

Advent Workshop

The Sunday after Thanksgiving from 10 - 11:30am, all our little elves gather in the Parish House auditorium to create seasonal gifts and decorations to gift or keep. **Open to all!**

Lucia Procession

December 13th is Lucia Day in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries. We invite **any children** who would like to participate to join our procession on the Sunday closest to Dec 13th. (2018: Dec 9)

Christmas Pageant

Our performance falls somewhere between the actual Nativity and Charlie Brown's epic rendition. Always charming, we re-create the events on and around the birth of Jesus. **There are parts for anyone who wants one!** Baaa-baaa!

Winter Workshops

During Jan and Feb, we have single-Sunday workshops for children. In the past, children have enjoyed cooking, crafting, karate...

Christmas and Easter

First Parish in Lincoln offers special services for families (Xmas: 5pm; Easter: 9am, followed by egg hunt) that are more "user friendly".



Overview of Program *Beyond Sunday Mornings*

8th Graders

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Two Sunday evenings per month, from October to early June, 8th grade students are invited to register for and participate in Our Whole Lives - a human anatomy and sexuality class that goes beyond body parts and functions... personal boundaries, respectful and responsible use of tech and social media, safe and caring relationships, and so much more. This is everything you wished your high-school sex-ed class was. Topics are discussed factually - these are, after all, “the facts of life”... *all* the facts.

9th - 12th Graders YES! Youth Engaged In Service

But wait, there's more! In addition to youth volunteering in the *Sunday Service*, we offer...

9th Graders *Dinner Service*

Students gather on select Sunday evenings to make and share dinner together with mentoring adult volunteers from the FPL community. Affectionately called “9Dine”

10th-12th Grade Youth Group

Students gather, when available, to plan and participate in *Community Service* opportunities - including the possibility of a mission trip.



Overview of Program *Beyond Sunday Mornings*

Weekly Playgroup

We are proud to host the LFA Drop-in Playgroup at First Parish on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30am. This is an open playgroup for babies and toddlers and their adult caregivers that is open to all.

Community Children's Choir

Calling all 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade singers and music lovers! Come and sing with Lincoln School's own Mr. Siskavich and Sarah Bishop! The choir rehearses about twice per month and has at least two performances per year (between Sept and June). Anyone may participate and there is no fee. Bring a friend!

Special and Community Events

We host or participate in community events like... Pumpkin Carving, Lincoln's "Winter Weekend" (afternoon games), Community Seder, Movie Nights... and more!



Our Future is Bright! We hope you'll be a part of it!

There is always room to grow. In addition to welcoming new families, we are also hoping to expand our program with new offerings, like...

Community Movie Nights

Weekday and/or Weekevening Classes - for adults and children

Magic Peace and Kindness Garden

Youth Program mission trip to... ???

Monthly pot-luck dinners for families

Your terrific idea here _____!

For more information...

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