
Confirmation

Confirmation at age 14 is both a culmination and a new beginning. The seed of the young person's religious life, which has been surrounded and nourished by the community, is released into life. For the first time, the young person attends The Consecration of the Human Being as an independent human being and receives his/her first Communion. After this, attendance is their choice.

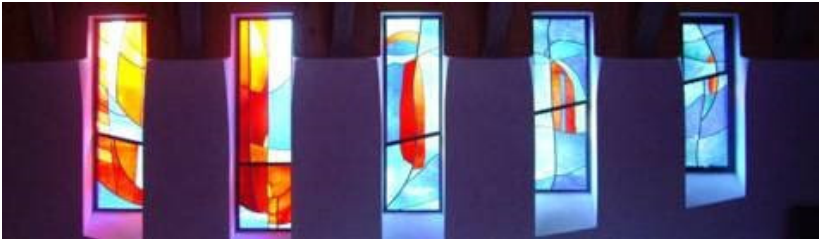
Youth Conferences

After Confirmation, our young people may attend our Youth Conferences or join the Youth Group. There are also International Youth Conferences, where older teens and those in their twenties find their own connections before settling down into the more local community as young adults. Often it is the Baptism of their own children which stimulates their re-entry as active participants and creators of the life of the Christian Community.

A Note About Giving

Our church is supported by the generous offerings and gifts of its members and friends, and those attending services and events.

Please make donations to The Christian Community, Hillsdale NY



Our Priests:

Rev. Carol Kelly 845 803-2071 carolkelly.cc@gmail.com
Rev. Mimi Coleman 845 302-1174 mcmimi2017@gmail.com
Rev. Robert Bower 815 540-7774 Rbower@thechristiancommunity.org
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Religious Classes For Children

An Introduction

Our Services: *The Consecration of the Human Being*
Sundays 10:30 AM, Fridays 7:00 AM, Thursdays & Saturdays 9:00 AM
Sundays Children's Service 10:00 AM
Children's Story & Singing Begins September 10th at 9:15 AM



10 Green River Lane
Hillsdale, New York 12529
www.christiancommunityhillsdale.com

Religious Classes For Children an Introduction

The word "religion" comes from the Latin "re-ligare" to bring together that which has been separated. We are working in every possible way to reunite, reconnect and bring people back to a sense of true, harmonious community. The difficult challenges of our technological world call for more attentiveness, not less, to the religious needs of children.

What is the foundation upon which we can build a sense for beauty, truth and goodness? How can we bring this to children in a way that does not preach but actually reveals itself objectively? This depends on the stories we are able to bring and the loving wisdom we carry as adults.

The Christian Community does not "teach" in order to bring children to church but in order that children will be nourished and healed in a troubled world. We want "whole and holy" children to become their best selves, in security and with confidence in Divine World guidance. Our religious life not only cultivates the child's inborn reverence for the Spirit but offers a nourishing support to families.

"The making of definitions is death to living teaching. If you succeed in giving the child concepts of reverence and devotion, living concepts of all that we call the "mood of prayer" in the widest sense, such a conception, permeated by the mood of prayer, becomes a living conception lasting right into old age... and becomes the power of blessing." -R. Steiner

"Love, pure selfless love for the Being of the world, for God: that is the method by which the great truths of Religion have been discovered, and by which alone they can only be confirmed. Love is the cognitive 'method' of the science of Being; and the science, the knowledge of Being is what lies at the heart of Religion." -R. Steiner

The Pre-School Child

For the very young religion takes place mostly within the family setting: at bedtime, grace before meals, children's fairy tales and stories which nurture a child's natural openness and reverence. Young children are always welcome to attend the Baptism of older children, which helps remind them of their own Baptism. Relationships with godparents strengthen their connection to the community. Young children are welcome to attend the festivals which mark the religious year. In addition, they may sit with their parents in the Sunday Service for Children.

The Children's Service

With their entry into first grade, the children are ready to participate in the Sunday Service for Children.

At the beginning of the Children's Service each child is greeted at the door. Prayers are spoken in unison. The child's senses are engaged through images, the warmth of the surroundings, the colours and flowers, while words, purposely not dramatic or overwhelming, gently encourage each young soul to seek the divine. The content emphasizes the importance of learning the great lesson of earthly life: that Christ is love's teacher in life's learning and working.

Religious Education

At age seven Religious Education also begins. Children receive the lessons in the form of stories, songs, and verses. Ideally, up to about the age of nine, the emphasis is on God the father, as illustrated through fairy-tales, legends, through stories that show the divine wisdom in nature and through Old Testament history. For fifth graders, the emphasis is on the Son of God and the New Testament. For grades eight and up, the emphasis is on the Spirit, that is, how the divine works in individual destinies. Approaching Confirmation at 14, it more often takes the form of discussion.

In the Sunday Service for Children, the heart gently awakens the will to worship God. In religious instruction, the heart gently awakens the head to understand the workings of God. They complement and balance one another, developing the child's religious life from both sides, in a way that will enable him or her later to make a free but informed choice about religion as an adult.

New Classes begin September 14th, 3:30-5:00 pm for preschool age to grade 6. Please register with Rev. Carol Kelly- carolkelly.cc@gmail.com
Sliding scale donation: \$60-120 per semester.

Rites of Passage

Every culture has a ceremony or a rite of passage for young people as they leave childhood behind and go forward into adulthood. The Christian Community has a sacrament that blesses this transition called "Confirmation." Classes about life, what it means to be human, what is in the holy writings of the past, what is in the holy writings of the present, what is good and evil, and such topics are a part of preparation for this sacrament. All 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend classes and to decide in freedom if they would like to be Confirmed at the end of 8th grade.

Classes will take place on alternating **Sunday evenings, 5:30 - 7:30 pm including a potluck supper, beginning September 24th.** Please contact Rev. Carol Kelly for more info. carolkelly.cc@gmail.com