

- Develop a sense of belonging to our church community
- Participate in our congregation's and UCC youth gatherings

### **Cultivate a well-rounded understanding of the Bible**

- Read and discuss the major stories, themes and history of the Bible
- Know the books of the Bible along with key characters and their lives
- Have a firm understanding of how the Bible was formed

### **Serve our community and world**

- Understand our charge to care for those in need (Good Samaritan story)
- Express their gifts and how they can make a difference
- Serve at a homeless shelter

### **Learn about and Practice worship**

- Communicate the uniqueness of our denomination and our congregation
- Make a financial commitment to the congregation
- Lead worship at First Congregational



# Faith Formation

## What is the purpose of our Christian Education Ministry at First Congregational UCC?

The Christian Education Ministry seeks to nurture a “vibrant faith” in all members and foster a culture of life-long faith formation by focusing on:

- Casting a vision of “vibrant faith”
- Cultivating a congregation with “vibrant faith”
- Modeling lives of “vibrant faith” to our children and youth

## What is vibrant faith?

Vibrant faith is a set of core values that guide us in living a fulfilling Christian life. Persons with a vibrant faith:

- Seek spiritual growth
- Practice their faith
- Integrate Christian faith into daily life
- Live a life of caring service
- Reach out to others
- Exercise moral integrity
- Speak about their faith with confidence
- Possess an encouraging spirit

## How do we model a vibrant faith to our children and youth?

We model our vibrant faith by being:

- **Authentic:** We will sincerely share and listen to the joys and sorrows of

life, share our life and faith stories and practice a vibrant faith

- **Available:** We will make time to be with and express interest in our young people.
- **Affirming:** We will name and encourage the gifts, talents and uniqueness of our young people.

## How does Sunday school at First Congregational UCC instill vibrant faith in our children and youth?

Our Sunday school program focuses on four essential areas of vibrant faith formation:

- Building a caring Christian community
- Learning about and practicing worship
- Cultivating a well-rounded understanding of the Bible
- Serving our community and world

## What will our children and youth learn?

**Our youngest members will:**

### Build a Christian community

- Get to know their classmates, pastor, and other adults within the church
- Help lead devotions at home
- Lead table grace at home

### Cultivate a well-rounded understanding of the Bible

- Discover how the Bible tells the story of God’s love for the world
- Know and tell the parables and story of Jesus’ life from birth to the resurrection and kingdom of God
- Recognize the books of the Bible related to Jewish and Christian history, wisdom and the gospels.

### Serve our community and world

- Prepare food and gifts for the homeless (in our PADS shelter)
- Learn the joy of helping others in the “Secret Angels” children’s program
- Pray for God’s love and justice in our world

### Learn about and Practice worship

- Name the basic parts of worship
- Know the seasons and meanings of the church year
- Assist in leading worship at First Congregational UCC

### Our youth will:

#### Build a Christian community

- Engage friends and family members in talking about Christian faith, ethics and justice