

PHPC Family Milestone Ministry

Faith development and Spiritual Nurture for Children, Youth, and their Families

These "milestones" mark significant ages and stages of a child's spiritual journey. For each milestone, caregivers and their children will be invited to participate in an educational event and will be provided resources to partner in learning and celebration at home.



Celebrating Baptism

Purpose: Baptism is a sign and seal of God's grace and claim on each of us as a child of God. At baptism, we are welcomed into the family of faith. It is the beginning of a lifelong journey of discipleship.

Scripture: 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 4:4-6

Focus: Families meet with a pastor to plan their child's baptism.

Resources for parents: Gifts of baptism and *Faithful Families* by Traci Smith



Learning Together, Ages 2-4

Purpose: Sunday school is an introduction to a life of learning from the Bible and the faith of others who are fulfilling the promises made at baptism to nurture those whom God has called. It is a foundational habit of faithful families to accompany their learning at home.

Scripture: Colossians 3:16

Focus: Children begin attending church school classes. Parents review baptism covenant.

Resources for parents: Take-home flyers from Church School



Worshipping Together, K-2nd Grade

Purpose: By learning about and experiencing worship, young children grow to become full participants in the faith community. They learn about the parts of worship and how worship is a continuous response to God's grace.

Scripture: Psalm 122:1

Focus: Families will attend a "Worship Readiness" class, children are invited to participate in Spark Sundays and are introduced to the PrayGround.

Resources for parents: Strategies for engaging children in worship and continuing conversations after church



Discovering God's Word, 3rd Grade

Purpose: God's word is a lamp for our lives. As children read and study the Bible they develop a greater awareness of their own relationship with God and they grow into their calling as faithful disciples.

Scripture: Psalm 119:105

Focus: Children receive a new Bible during worship and attend "Finding My Way Through The Bible" class with a family member.

Resources for parents: Prompts for reading scripture together at home



Faith and Sexuality, 5th or 6th Grade

Purpose: The church has a responsibility alongside parents to respond to children's growing awareness of their gender and sexuality. This series will connect information about our bodies to our faith and belief that our bodies and spirits are gifts from God.

Scripture: Psalm 139:14

Focus: Children and their caregivers will attend the "Our Whole Lives" series.

Resources for parents: Discussion groups and curriculum resources



Beginning Youth Group, 6th Grade

Purpose: To provide youth with a safe place to explore their faith, life issues and who they are as children of God along with adults who love and care about them.

Scripture: 1 Tim 4:12

Focus: Begin attending PHPC youth group on Sunday evenings, mission trips, and retreats.

Resources for parents: Word Teasers: Faith Edition for dinner conversation



Professing our Faith, 8th or 9th Grade

Purpose: These young people are called to ask questions and articulate their faith. They are given the choice to join the congregation and the PC(USA).

Scripture: Joshua 24:15

Focus: Youth will participate in Confirmation Class

Resources for parents: Home discussion prompts



Discerning God's Call, 9th-12th Grade

Purpose: Assist in discerning God's call in youth's lives for life after High School.

Scripture: Romans 12:2

Focus: Youth will participate in annual Church School unit on discerning and identifying our God given skills and gifts, and learning spiritual practices.

Resources for parents: Take-home information



Sending our Seniors, 12th Grade

Purpose: To affirm our baptismal covenant and send graduating seniors into the world with prayer and support

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8, Ephesians 4:4-6

Focus: Seniors will be recognized in worship and Church School.

Resources for parents: Pastoral Care support

When God's people crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, they carried stones from the river and stacked them on the other side. Then Joshua said, "When children ask their parents in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know..."

Joshua 4:6

