

# PEACE UCC FAITH FORMATION (DURING COVID)



Needless to say, things are going to be a little different in the COVID-19 era, but we think you are going to like what is coming! This year our Faith Formation program will be very unique and amazing with our theme: "Peace Powers — Strengthening Your Extraordinary Gifts." Our children and teens will be invited to embark on a journey to discover their own inner Super Powers. We promise you this is going to be a lot of fun!

We encourage you to watch our Super Power Prologue [here](#) to get a sense what our kids will be participating in.

Keep reading to learn what our fall programming will look like:

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**Children (PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade):** On September 27 from 11a-12p, our K-5 children can come by to pick up a super-hero kit. Inside each kit you will find 4 boxes, 1 for each week; new boxes will be given out each month thereafter.

Each weekly box will contain several things:

- A link to a video message from one of our leaders. They will explain the contents of the box and deliver a lesson and reflection on the particular theme of the month, connected to Christian faith, scripture, and our super-hero theme.
- A unique craft activity for your child to enjoy that is connected with the lesson of the week.
- A special superhero “mission” that involves completing a practical service activity or practice.
- Instructions to record and send us a short superhero video clip of your child. Our team will collect these clips for use in a special project that you will find out more about later on.

Each child will also receive a journal so they can reflect on and document their experiences as they engage their Peace Powers for this year's faith formation program. We promise you this is going to be a lot of fun. To help us with preparations for our kits, please sign up your child(ren) by September 20 via this google form: <https://bit.ly/3gw9rm7> (*Note: to make this easier for families, the same form is being used to sign up all your children – we are not requiring one form for each child*).

**Teens (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Our teens will also be participating, but we have tailored it to be more fun and relevant for them. While we won't be distributing “kits”, we will communicate with them digitally to share many of the same things: a weekly video message, a service “mission”, a video project and journal.

In addition, our teens will have access to a new on-line community that Peace Church is launching through the Discord platform. This is a very useful and private communication tool that we hope will be utilized by our whole church community. The teens will be able to communicate with each other about the faith formation activities they are doing, with adult leaders to monitor those conversations so that we can keep it a safe and protected environment for on-line discussion. Per our safe-child guidelines, these adult leaders will have a current back-ground check on file, as well as periodic check-ins with Pastor Winston.

To help us with preparations for these communications, please sign up your teen by September 20 via this google form: <https://bit.ly/3gw9rm7> (*Note: to make this easier for families, the same form is being used to sign up all your children – we are not requiring one form for each child*).

We are so excited about this year's faith formation and how we can use our Peace Powers to make this a better world! Please be sure to sign up your child(ren) ASAP!

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## **Adult Fall Programming**

This fall we will also be offering several new adult small groups that you can participate in. On our website, under "Get Involved" - Small Groups (<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/get-involved>) you will be able to browse, read descriptions, and find out all the details for these new small groups. In addition to the groups that are already meeting, you can join any of the following new small groups:

- Mental Health and Spirituality
- Divorce Support Group
- Meditation, Contemplation, and Prayer Practices Group
- The Cross and the Lynching Tree Book Study Group
- 30's and 40's Fellowship Group
- Enormous Africa: A Continent, Not a Country
- Race Forward: Hosting the Discussion on Race
- Community Art Projects Group

This COVID-19 era is also re-vamping our small group participation. The same on-line community platform (Discord) that is being used for our teens will be used for our small groups.

Get signed up now for Discord and begin to connect with others as we launch our Adult Fall Programming.

To see Pastor Winston's video about how Discord will work, click [here](#)

To see Debby's video on what to do once you receive the invitation link, click [here](#)

While these groups are just the start, the possibility of new groups will be created as we come up with more ideas and find more volunteers to help facilitate. The excitement for our 2020 fall programming is building. If you have an idea for a small group or would like to help facilitate one, please contact Pastor Winston ([ypastor@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:ypastor@peacechurchucc.org) or 507-282-6117). We look forward to connecting with you!

