

# FAITH FORMATION NEWS

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

IN THIS ISSUE

PROGRAM YEAR  
OVERVIEW 2018-2019

FAITH FORMATION FOR  
ALL AGES

INTERGENERATIONAL  
EVENTS

CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
EVENTS

YOUTH EVENTS

ONGOING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
CONNECTION



*Image top left: An image from the upcoming "Lens on the Border" photography exhibit.*

*Image bottom left: Peace members share communion with one*

*Image top right: Mikah Meyer stands with a Pride flag during a visit to one of 417 National Park sites. Image bottom right: Youth from Peace pose for a group selfie at March for*

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FALL 2018

**Every Sunday, age-specific faith formation education will be offered for adults, children and youth.** Each week's topic will correspond to our shared theme shared by all ages.

At Peace, we believe we are all called to nurture the faith of our young people through investment in their lives and modeling behaviors of a community marked by justice, peace and inclusion.

This fall's curriculum is designed to help us continue to grow in our capacity to do just that.



## Meet the Intergenerational Engagement Coordinator, Lydia Ewing-Green

LYDIA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE HEALING POWER OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES. She graduated with a double major in Biblical and Classical Thought and Literature and Pastoral Leadership, with emphases in historical theology and organizational health. She continued her masters work along the same vein, with a focus on theology and sociology of the body. Since her graduation in 2006, and a life-change that halted her graduate work in 2009, Lydia has used her knowledge of organizational health to work in marketing, sales, communications and project management. Over the past five years, she worked for People of Hope Lutheran Church as office administrator and communications coordinator.

Lydia lives with her partner Phil, son Sam (age 9), three cats and backyard chickens. She loves to garden, cook, run, sew, knit and read. She values being close to family and loves living in the same town as her parents, sister and brother-in-law (pictured above). She also has a brother in Portland.

As Intergenerational Engagement Coordinator, Lydia hopes to bring her passion for just, peaceful and inclusive community to the forefront by helping people of all ages connect with one other through shared education and volunteering events. She will be planning periodic Intergenerational Events, such as our upcoming guided walk-through of the *Lens on the Border* photography exhibit and a new emphasis on multi-age participation in service of our Community Thanksgiving Meal.

She plans to use her passion for communications and marketing to help our faith community feel more connected to one another and engaged in shared events, as well as to con-

tinue to extend the message of God's radical love and acceptance we seek to embody at Peace to Rochester and beyond. You may have already noticed her work on our facebook presence, the bulletin and publications like this one.

She will be coordinating Adult Faith Formation on Sunday mornings and working in concert with Pastor Beth to build curriculum that shares themes with children and youth.

She will also be working closely with the Our Whole Lives healthy sexuality program to facilitate learning opportunities for all ages in this life-affirming, live-saving curriculum.

*To get in touch with Lydia, stop by the office Sunday-Thursdays (she loves visitors) or email her at [intergen@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:intergen@peacechurchucc.org).*



## Pastor Beth Rogers

ASSOCIATE PASTOR— Pastor Beth will continue to be responsible for age-specific programming for children, youth and families, such as Sunday Morning Faith Formation, Confirmation, and youth activities. She will continue to provide pastoral care, theological teaching and children's sermons. Contact Pastor Beth ([ypastor@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:ypastor@peacechurchucc.org)).

# INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM YEAR FALL 2018- SPRING 2019

## New Program Year, Fresh Program Focus

OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS—Peace Staff have been working hard to develop programming for the coming education year. In response to a congregational study done by Sarah Neher, which helped us to identify a need for greater connection between people of all ages at Peace, Lydia Ewing-Green has been hired as our Intergenerational Engagement Coordinator. Lydia and Pastor Beth will be working in concert to create programming that meets the age-specific needs of members, as well as the need to connection between age groups within our community of faith. You will see the following strategic shifts in our programming goals this year:

- Move toward intergenerational engagement through work with a shared theme in Sunday Faith Formation all ages, with consistent weekly offerings for adults.
- Share events that bring people together across the age groups; find shared causes people of all age groups can participate in together.
- Begin a Wednesday night, peer lead youth program and regular youth fellowship events.

# PROGRAM YEAR EDUCATION OVERVIEW

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

**Module One:** God's vision of Shalom: The whole world longs for justice and peace.

**Educational theme:** What does a "Shalom" community look like? *An intergenerational, inclusive community is a lived expression of justice and peace. We can learn together build the social and emotional skills needed to be justice-seekers, peace-makers and inclusion-builders.*

**Adult focus:** All adults in our faith community are responsible to continually learn and model the core competencies of just, peaceful and inclusive community for our children and youth. What are those core competencies?

- Circles of control, influence and concern: Our responsibility to model an alternative community.
- It starts with empathy: What is Empathy? How do we listen with Empathy?
- Strategies for difficult conversations: Holiday Meal Prep Session.
- Truth telling and emotional congruence: Cultivate skills to create peace and honesty within ourselves and our relationships.

**Children and Youth focus:** Zechariah 8 describes God's vision of Shalom. Children will explore the various aspects of this vision of just, peaceful and inclusive community through experiential learning station rotations. Youth will explore the same themes through guided group discussions and learning activities.

God's vision of Shalom requires:

- For people to be together across generations.
- For truth to be told.
- Peace amongst the nations.
- A vibrant and healthy earth.
- Joyful worship.
- For us to share our passions with others and lead by example.

## DECEMBER

**Module Two:** Advent and Christmas, "It's a Wonderful Life"

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY

**Module Three:** God and love, love and neighbor.

## MARCH/APRIL

**Module Four:** Lent and Easter: The courage to do the right thing.

## MAY

**Module Five:** Program year wrap-up and celebration.



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation is for adults now, too.

Every Sunday, age-specific faith formation education will be offered for adults, children and youth. Each week's topic will correspond to our shared theme.

This way, adults with children and youth can take the core of each lesson home to conversations around the dinner table, a ride in the car or an after-school chat. Adults without children and youth at home are also urged to participate in Sunday morning adult faith formation, as the curriculum is designed for adults of all ages and walks of life.

At Peace, we believe we are all called to nurture the faith of our young people through investment in their lives and modeling behaviors of a community marked by justice, peace and inclusion. This fall's curriculum is designed to help us continue to grow in our capacity to do just that. **Learn more about what to expect in the calendar on the following pages.**



# INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Starting with Faith Formation events where all ages are present.

Intergenerational events will happen periodically throughout the year. This fall's intergenerational events include a guided, interactive walk-through of the "Lens on the Border" photography exhibit on Sunday, September 16, and shared preparations for our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal on Sunday, November 18.

**These intergenerational events are just one component of our intentional move toward seeing people of all ages in our community as an integrated whole.** Together we are striving to continue to grow in our ability to serve together and learn from one another, exploring questions of life and faith across age groups. Want to learn more? Contact Intergenerational Engagement Coordinator, Lydia Ewing-Green at [intergen@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:intergen@peacechurchucc.org).

# SUNDAY MORNING CALENDAR

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

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## SEPTEMBER

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**SEPTEMBER 9: Rally Day:** Fall programming kicks off on Rally Day, when we resume two services (8:30, 11:00a) and Faith Formation (9:40a). After the second service all are invited to gather for a potluck. All beef hotdogs will be provided, please bring a dish to pass (sides, dessert).

**During the faith formation hour:** get your picture taken, register, find your age groups and get information about the upcoming program year. Children and youth play get to know you games, parents are encouraged to be present. All adults are encouraged to share in conversation and coffee.

**SEPTEMBER 16: Lens on the Border: Intergenerational Interactive Walk-Through.** Lens on the Border Art Exhibit is sponsored by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club's Borderlands team, in collaboration with photographers and artists from the United States and Mexico, have created an eclectic compilation of images that urge viewers to rethink US-Mexico border stereotypes and capture the essence of life in the US-Mexico border region. Together, persons of all ages will experience a guided walk-through of the exhibit and participate in corresponding experiential learning activities.

**SEPTEMBER 23: Mikah Meyer:** During 8:30 and 11:00a services, join Upworthy-featured guest speaker and National Cathedral countertenor singer, Mikah Meyer, as he shares about his world record, 3-year road trip to all 417 National Park Service sites and how being a pastor's kid inspired it. Hear about how he once felt he had to choose between belonging to his Christian community and living as his authentic self as a gay man; and how his road trip to national parks has become a part of that faith journey.

**Adults:** During faith formation, adults are encouraged to spend time talking with Mikah and one another.



*Photo credit: Jasmine Stevens. Jasmine Stevens is a Tohono O'Odham photographer at Ba-vaquivari High School. This portrait of her brother, Keanu, reveals a glimpse of daily life for young people growing up along*

### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

#### Lens on the Border

SEPTEMBER 15-23— Experience "Lens on the Border," a photography exhibit sponsored by the Sierra Club, created with to encourage viewers to rethink border stereotypes and capture the essence of life in the US-Mexico border region. An opening reception for the community will be held Saturday, September 15 at 6:30p. An intergenerational walk-through is planned on Sunday, September 16 during our Faith Formation hour. Exhibit will remain through Sunday, September 23.



*Pictured above: Mikah Meyer flies a Pride flag, a symbol of his journey as he visits all 417 National Park sites, speaking and singing about love and inclusion*

## Mikah Meyer: Journey of Love

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23  
8:30a and 11a — Join Upworthy-featured guest speaker and National Cathedral countertenor singer, Mikah Meyer, as he shares about his world record, 3-year road trip to all 417 National Park Service sites and how being a pastor's kid inspired it.

GUEST SPEAKER

### SEPTEMBER 23 (CONTINUED)

**Children:** First Session of Zechariah 8: God's vision of Shalom

**Youth:** Journey to authentic self, plan activities to do with children during Semi-Annual Meeting.

### SEPTEMBER 30

**Adults:** Semi-Annual Meeting

**Middle school youth, unconfirmed youth:** Assisting children in "Children's Semi-Annual Meeting."

**Children:** Kids Semi Annual Meeting

### OCTOBER 7: World Communion Sunday

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# OCTOBER

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#### The whole world longs for justice and peace.

**Adults:** Guest speakers Ginger and David Holmes

**Children:** Session 2 of Rotation 1 (Zechariah 8: Shalom Community)

**Youth:** Zechariah 8: We can model a community of justice and peace, we can learn together to be peace-makers, justice-seekers and inclusion-builders. Session 1: All people come together across generations.

#### OCTOBER 14: The whole world longs for justice and peace.

**Adults:** Together, we will examine the rich heritage of Judeo-Christian story that describes a vision of wholeness in our world. This vision of wholeness speaks to us about a community that is inherently intergenerational and inclusive.

We cannot control the chaos of our world, but we can model an alternative community for our children. And:

**#WhenWeAllVote Voting Awareness Campaign.** What does it mean to bring our faith values to the ballot box? Learn about where to find information about candidates, how to register and where to vote.

**Children:** Session 3 of Zechariah Rotations

**Youth:** Zechariah Session 2: Truth telling

#### OCTOBER 21

**Adults: We can learn together to be justice-seekers, peace-makers and inclusion-builders: build the competency of empathy.** It all starts with empathy. What is empathy? Hear from guest speaker Marie Neher.

**Children:** Session 4 of Zechariah Rotations

**Youth:** Zechariah Session: Peace among nations.

**OCTOBER 28: Guest speaker from Rochester Women's Shelter (October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month).** Build empathy and understanding for those who experience domestic violence and corresponding homelessness; learn about safe and unsafe relationships and how you can support the work of the Rochester Women's Shelter.

**Children:** Return to your favorite Zechariah Rotation.

**Youth:** Zechariah Session 4: Joyful worship.

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# NOVEMBER

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**NOVEMBER 4: Holiday Meal Prep Session:** Feeling unprepared for those awkward political conversations around the holiday dinner table? Dreading the usual "elephants in the room?" Together, we will learn strategies for difficult conversations. Such as: finding common ground (focus on common values); helping those you hear feel understood; and gracefully exiting non-constructive conversations.

**Children:** Mentoring rotation: Joyful worship. Lead by example.

**Youth:** Zechariah Session 5: Share your passion with others; lead by example.

**NOVEMBER 11: We can learn together to be justice-seekers, peace-makers and inclusion-builders: build the competency of truthfulness and congruence:** Do you ever avoid saying how you really feel, just to avoid an unpleasant emotion? Have you ever experienced a hurtful situation in a relationship because you or someone you know was being "Minnesota nice?" Cultivate skills to create peace and honesty within ourselves that will lead us to peace and honesty in our relationships.

**Children:** Mentoring rotation: Joyful worship. Lead by example.

**Youth:** Zechariah Session 6: Create daily rituals of *shalom*.

**NOVEMBER 18: Thanksgiving Meal Preparations:**

**Intergenerational** Together we will serve our annual Thanksgiving Meal. Join with people of all ages to decorate tables, create place settings, setup tables and chairs and create an environment of generosity and hospitality for our guests.

**NOVEMBER 25: Thanksgiving, no Faith Formation.**

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE EVENT

## Thanksgiving Meal: Hospitality from All Ages

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER

18— Together we will host a Thanksgiving Meal, open to the Rochester area community. All ages will work together to create table decorations (bring on your best turkey crafts), make a hospitable environment for our guests and help to serve food. *More details to come!*



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

## Labor Day Parking Lot Party for All Ages

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1—Bring your bike, trike, scooters & more to meet kids and families of all ages and kick off the year with Peace! 9:30 am: water play (if warm), sidewalk chalk, and playground time.

## Faith Formation Classroom Setup

ALSO ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1—Your help is needed to setup classrooms for faith formation, 12:30p. Questions? Contact Pastor Beth ([ypastor@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:ypastor@peacechurchucc.org)).

## Where to Start on Sunday Mornings

SUNDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9— Join in the fun for Faith Formation between services. Grades 6-12 begin in the Dwelling. Age 3 –Grade 5 start in the Music Room and then break out into rotations.



## Thursday Nights: Family Hangout

EVERY THURSDAY, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12— Meet other families in a casual atmosphere. Bring your dinner to heat up, quick dinners picked up or eat before coming! Meet others, plan to connect over shared interests, take a breath and let the kids play. The more the merrier. Board Games, legos, Wiggle Room for toddler play and more, 5:30-7:30p.

## Movie Nights & Other Important Dates

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: Faith Formation Classroom, 12:30p  
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Rally Sunday, Leader Orientation, 9:30a  
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5: Movie and Pizza Night  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28: Fall Fest  
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18: Thanksgiving Meal Sunday  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2: "It's a Wonderful Life," Movie Viewing  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23: All Comers Christmas Program, 10a  
 FRIDAY, JANUARY 11: Movie and Pizza Night  
 FRIDAY, MARCH 15: Movie and Pizza Night  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 21: Easter Breakfast, Egg Hunt and Scavenger Hunt  
 SUNDAY, MAY 19: End-of-Year Faith Formation Celebration  
 FRIDAY, JUNE 7: Outdoor Movie Night



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## Children's Faith Formation

**SEPTEMBER 9: Rally Day**

**SEPTEMBER 16: Lens on the Border Photography Exhibit:  
Intergenerational Guided Walk-Through**

**SEPTEMBER 23:** Session 1 of Rotation 1 (Zechariah 8: Shalom Community (see description to the right))

**SEPTEMBER 30:** Children's Semi-Annual Meeting

**OCTOBER 7: World Communion Sunday,** Session 2 of Rotation 1

**OCTOBER 14:** Session 3 of Rotation 1

**OCTOBER 21:** Session 4 of Rotation 1

**OCTOBER 28:** Return to your favorite Rotation 1 station.

**NOVEMBER 4:** Mentoring rotation: Joyful worship. Lead by example.

**NOVEMBER 11:** Mentoring rotation: Joyful worship. Lead by example.

**NOVEMBER 18: Thanksgiving Meal Preparations:  
Intergenerational Hospitality**

## Youth Faith Formation

**SEPTEMBER 9: Rally Day**

**SEPTEMBER 16: Lens on the Border Photography Exhibit:  
Intergenerational Guided Walk-Through**

**SEPTEMBER 23:** Journey to authentic self. Plan activities to do with children during Semi-Annual Meeting.

**SEPTEMBER 30:** Middle school youth, unconfirmed youth: Assisting children in "Children's Semi-Annual Meeting." Confirmed youth join adults for Semi-Annual Meeting.

**OCTOBER 7: World Communion Sunday:** Second Session of Rotation 1 (Zechariah 8: Shalom Community)

**OCTOBER 14:** Session 2: Truth telling.

**OCTOBER 21:** Session 3: Peace among nations.

**OCTOBER 28:** Session 4: Joyful worship.

**NOVEMBER 4:** Session 5: Share your passion with others; lead by example.

**NOVEMBER 11:** Session 6: Create daily rituals of *shalom*.

**NOVEMBER 18: Thanksgiving Meal Preparations:  
Intergenerational Hospitality**

**NOVEMBER 25: Thanksgiving, no Faith Formation.**

### ELEMENTARY ROTATION ONE

**Zechariah 8 and the  
Shalom Community  
ELEMENTARY ROTATION 1  
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23**

Rotation stations:

1. People together across generations (art).
2. Earth care (garden tour).
3. Truth (games)
4. Peace amongst the nations (music and poetry).

### YOUTH IN THE DWELLING

**Youth Faith  
Formation:  
Sunday Mornings**  
BEGINNING SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9—Faith  
Formation happens  
between services in the  
Dwelling.

Middle School and High School begin together and break out for discussion on the same topic of the day.

# YOUTH PROGRAMMING



## **Youth Faith Formation: Sunday Mornings**

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9—Faith Formation happens between services in the Dwelling. Middle School and High School begin together and break out for discussion on the same topic of the day.

## **Peer Leadership Group: Wednesday Nights**

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19— Peer Leadership study and fellowship at church. Dinner followed by activity in the Dwelling.

## **Youth Activity Nights & Other Important Dates**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: Move furniture to NEW Youth Space, 12:30p

FRI- SAT, SEPTEMBER 21-22: Overnight @ Winters Farm!

OCTOBER 12-14: MS&HS Conference Youth Event @ Pilgrim Point

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 : Air Insanity

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28: Fall Fest

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 : TBD Activity

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21: Christmas Party

MONDAY, JANUARY 21: MLK Rally

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8: An Evening with John Pavlovitz

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: TBD Activity

SUNDAY, MARCH 17: TBD Activity

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: : TBD Activity and Easter Breakfast Prep Shopping

APRIL 26-28: MS&HS Conference Youth Event @ Pilgrim Point

SUNDAY, MAY 19: End of the Year Youth Celebration

JUNE/JULY TBD: Borderlands High School/Intergenerational Mission Trip

AUGUST TBD: St. Louis Middle School Mission Trip



COMING JANUARY 2019

# OUR WHOLE LIVES HEALTHY SEXUALITY CURRICULUM

COMING JANUARY 2019— Our Whole Lives curriculum, which focuses on healthy relationships and sexuality, will be offered for elementary ages (grades k-6) during faith formation and for middle school (grades 7-9) and high school youth (grades 10-12) in a retreat format. Stay tuned for more information about registration and specifics as we get closer, as well as a parent and guardian information session coming in December.

*Our Whole Lives (sometimes referred to as "OWL") is a holistic sexual education curriculum that "helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality."*

Learn more at [www.ucc.org/justice\\_sexuality-education\\_our-whole-lives](http://www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality-education_our-whole-lives)

Questions? Contact Intergenerational Engagement Coordinator, Lydia Ewing-Green ([intergen@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:intergen@peacechurchucc.org)).

ONGOING

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

## Weekly Groups for Adults

**TUESDAYS:** Men of Peace, 7a  
Knitting & Crocheting Group, 10:30a  
Women's Bible Study, 10a  
Beverage and Bible (Glynnner's Pub), 5p  
**THURSDAYS:** Women's Fellowship, 7a  
Quilting Group 10a

## Race Forward

RESUMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11—  
Expand your awareness of race and white privilege through reading and discussion. Meets downstairs in the Dwelling, 7p.  
Questions? Contact Ruth Larson.

## Connect Groups

Fall is a great time to open new opportunities for Connect Groups! Spend

time doing things you enjoy while building friendships with people from your faith community. New leadership is being explored and you are invited to think about what brings you together with those from church. Want to get one started? Want to get involved with an existing Connect Group? Contact Pastor Beth ([ypastor@peaceucchurch.org](mailto:ypastor@peaceucchurch.org)) or the Welcome Desk. Check the Peace ChurchOn app for more information.