



CHRIST CHURCH

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue
Pelham, New York 10803

Telephone (914) 738-5515

Facsimile (914) 712-0526

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

FAMILY & CHILDREN MINISTRIES UPDATE OCTOBER 14, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

Last week I offered an all-around Parish Update ([read it here if you missed it](#)). That update included information about Confirmation Class (and many other things as well). This week I write with an update on Sunday School, Family Events, and Christmas Pageant.

CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

In-person Sunday School is not currently possible. Aside from the obvious challenges of trying to do in-person Sunday School safely, we simply don't have the space we normally have. In order for Montessori to reopen, they needed our assurance that the school space would not be shared in any way – so our normal Sunday School classrooms are not available to us, and likely won't be for this academic year. That said, we are planning some great events for children and families this autumn.

Our program year kicks off on Tuesday, October 20, in the flat grassy area near the Garden of Resurrection behind the Church with *Bible Stories in the Garden* from 4-5pm (rain date is October 21). This in-person event is designed for younger children (below and in elementary school age) and their parents to hear some Bible Stories read by our Sunday School teachers, to receive a Children's Bible to take home and use this year, and to say hello to everyone. Bring your own blankets to sit on, bring some snacks, wear your masks, keep socially distant, and say hello to other Christ Church families. Please RSVP to the Parish Office in advance so we have some idea of who will be coming, and so we can make sure we have enough Children's Bibles.

Our second in-person event will be a *Costume Party* for children of all ages on Halloween, Saturday, October 31, from 10-11am in the grassy area behind the Church. We will have tables with packaged candy/snacks and (safe) games. If you want to donate candy for this, please drop it off at the Parish Office any time before October 30. If you want to help out, please let me know. Families who weren't able to pick up their Children's Bible on October 20 can pick them up at this event. Please RSVP with the Parish Office in advance so we have some idea of who will be coming.

Our third in-person event will be for children of all ages *Decorating Thanksgiving Boxes and Lunch Bags* on Saturday, November 14, from 10-11am in the grassy area behind the Church. We will learn a little bit about the various Outreach projects Christ Church is involved in each year, then we will

decorate boxes and bags. We also invite anyone who wishes to take home a decorated box for Thanksgiving-In-A-Box that can be filled.

On Sunday, December 6, from 11am to 12pm, we will *Decorate the Trees* in front of the Church using ornaments decorated at home by all of our kids – the ornaments will be distributed on November 14 and available after that in the Parish Office.

Janet Kornfeld and Curtis Chase are working on a series of videos with the hope that their usual Middle School class can be offered in a virtual, online format. Once each video is available, we will offer a Zoom check in to watch and talk about the video... and check in with each other. The Zoom check-ins will probably be about once a month.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

An in-person, in-door Christmas Pageant isn't possible. Some churches are planning in-person, outdoor Pageants, but the possibility of postponing or cancelling the Pageant due to rain, snow, or freezing weather seems high to me. So, we will do an online Pageant, and frankly there are some major benefits to that. Three obvious ones are that we can all watch it whenever we wish, we can forward it to family and friends, and we can revisit it each year to see how our kids have grown up. This year's Christmas Pageant will have three main focuses: scripture, music, and costumes.

Our plan is to schedule every family/child to come one-at-a-time to Christ Church to dress up in one of our Pageant Costumes (no costumes will be shared – once a costume is used, it will be “retired” until next year), read a short passage of Scripture, and sing *Silent Night* and *Away In Manger*. We will record the Scripture and singing for a video pageant.

Logistically, this is only doable if we have a set schedule for families to come in to record. Please find a way to come to the Church to record on of these three days:

- Wednesday, November 18, 1-4pm; 7-9pm.
- Saturday, November 21, 10am-1pm
- Sunday, November 22, 1:30-4pm

Sign-up for a 30-minute slot: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054AAAAE2FA02-christmas>

If none of those days or times work, please let me know. We can't do all sorts of exceptions, but if we need to schedule one, alternate day with a handful of times, we can do that.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

In Christ,



The Reverend Matthew Hossie Mead, Rector