

2015 - 2016



YOUTH PROGRAMS



**PROGRAMMING FOR
YOUTH IN GRADES 7 - 12**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF NATICK
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Each and every one of us carries a memory tucked away somewhere close to the heart, of the first time someone, somewhere, took us seriously and gave us enough time to amaze and astonish them with our questions and answers.



In Fall 2015, First Church Natick launched a new youth program designed to be more responsive to the needs and desires of today's teenagers and more compatible with their busy schedules. A junior youth group for those in grades 7-9 meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, and a senior youth group for those in grades 10-12 meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. These Sunday night meetings are a safe space for:

- ❖ worshipping in a relaxed and interactive style
- ❖ forming deeper relationships with each other
- ❖ sharing about the stresses and challenges of their lives
- ❖ celebrating their victories and milestones
- ❖ learning to look for God in unexpected places
- ❖ growing in faith and in group leadership
- ❖ serving their community together

Members of both youth groups also participate in worship leadership during our Sunday morning worship services, as well as our annual Maundy Thursday intergenerational worship service and potluck dinner.

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program is offered for our 7th and 8th graders every other year. This comprehensive sex ed curriculum provides our youth with accurate and complete information, believing that this is the best way to equip them to make healthy, life-enhancing choices in their sexual lives. In OWL, our youth learn that God desires health and happiness for all parts of their lives, including their sexual lives! OWL is taught by Sarallyn Keller – our Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care – and Jean Sniffin, a retired nurse in our congregation with a passion for public health.

Our confirmation class is also offered every other year for our 10th and 11th graders. Confirmation is an in-depth, year-long process that begins with the youth pilgrimage to Monhegan Island, Maine during the summer, followed by monthly meetings that guide youth through a process of discernment and articulation of their own faith values, in preparation for possible confirmation in the spring.

For more information about our youth program, please contact Sarallyn Keller (sarallyn@FirstChurchNatick.org; 508-653-0971).



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

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