

Formation

*at First Presbyterian Church
Sundays/Fall 2019*

*Experience a year of **Belonging***



Why Formation?

Since announcing that I would be joining FPC as the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults, a few friends have asked me, “Why do you call it Christian Formation and not Christian Education? Isn’t it the same thing? Is it just one of those Church words?” We often hear the terms formation and education used interchangeably. I admit that I have caught myself using those words as if they meant the exact same thing. Education is an important part of church life. I hope you and your family will learn and receive an education about Christianity by participating in Formation at FPC. Yet, the Formation Ministry Team and I want something more for you.

We use the word formation because it goes beyond knowledge and education. Formation goes outside our own self and encompasses those around us and the global community. In each of our Formation classes, the goal is to learn about yourselves, your relationship to God, and how we are responsible for one another. Unlike classes at school, there is no end to the formation of our faith and understanding. We want these experiences to be part of a lifelong journey of self-development and self-discovery. Additionally, these groups and classes are to be places for you to belong. They provide times of fellowship and places of care. They are to nourish you as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The First Presbyterian Church Formation Team is excited to share this brochure with you as an invitation to the many Sunday classes and groups available at our church. We believe there is something for everyone on Sunday morning. Whether you are looking for a class based on subject, life-stage, or something completely different, we know there is place for you.

Grace Abounds,

Robert L. Galloway

Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults



Forming *Adults* as Disciples

Formation at First Presbyterian Church happens when we connect faith and life in meaningful ways. On Sunday mornings, adults gather to study Scripture, to grow and to risk the transformation that accompanies deepening discipleship.

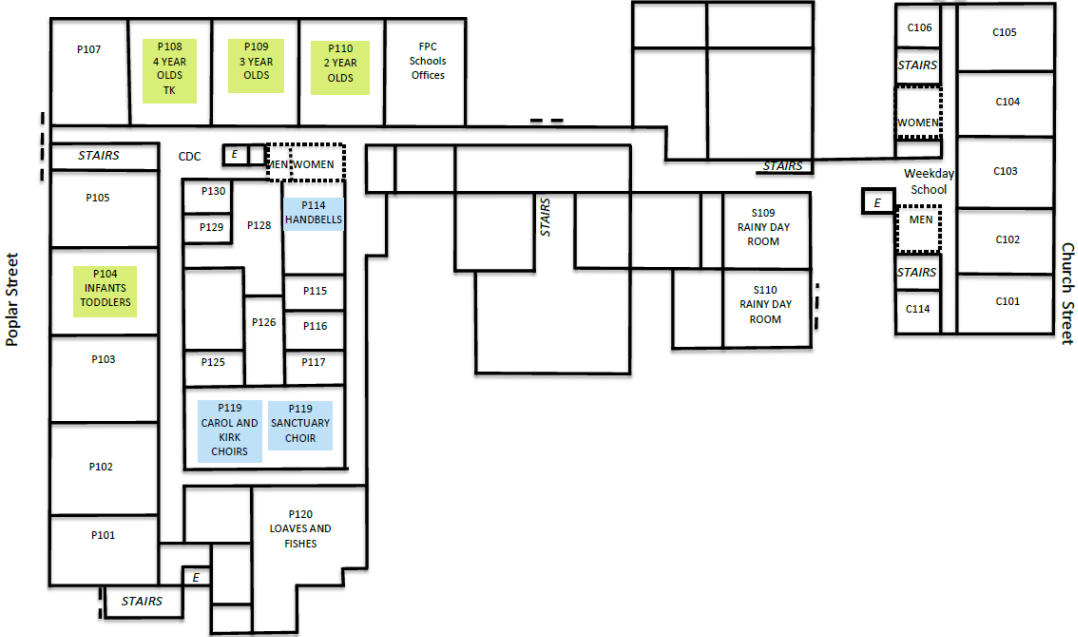
We belong to God, and we belong to each other. As we experience love of God and neighbor together, we reflect it in our personal and public lives. The Sunday classes listed below help prepare us to do Christ's transforming work in the world.

- **Chapel Bible Class (Chapel):** This class uses *The Present Word* curriculum to study what it means to love God. The fall focus is on the "grace of God" as a central conviction of Christian faith.
- **Passages Class (S203/Pattie Cole Room):** This class looks to Scripture, history and current events to examine a personal and communal path of faith. The lessons are attentive to the needs and interests of those who are navigating mid-life passages, but the class is open to all. This group gathers for social events twice a year.
- **Conversations Class (P212/Frances Browne Dining Room):** This class gathers around tables to study Scripture and apply it to daily life through personal reflection as well as fellowship building. Pastors, staff and class members guide conversations emphasizing the importance of belonging to one another and to God in faith.
- **Good Samaritan Class for Young Adults (P206):** Beginning October 6 in Room P206, the Good Samaritan Class will shift its focus to Young Adults. All ages are still welcome to gather to discuss the intersection of our lives as Christians and everyday culture. The Fall focus will be on civic engagement and life as a Christian citizen. For more information contact Robert Galloway, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults.

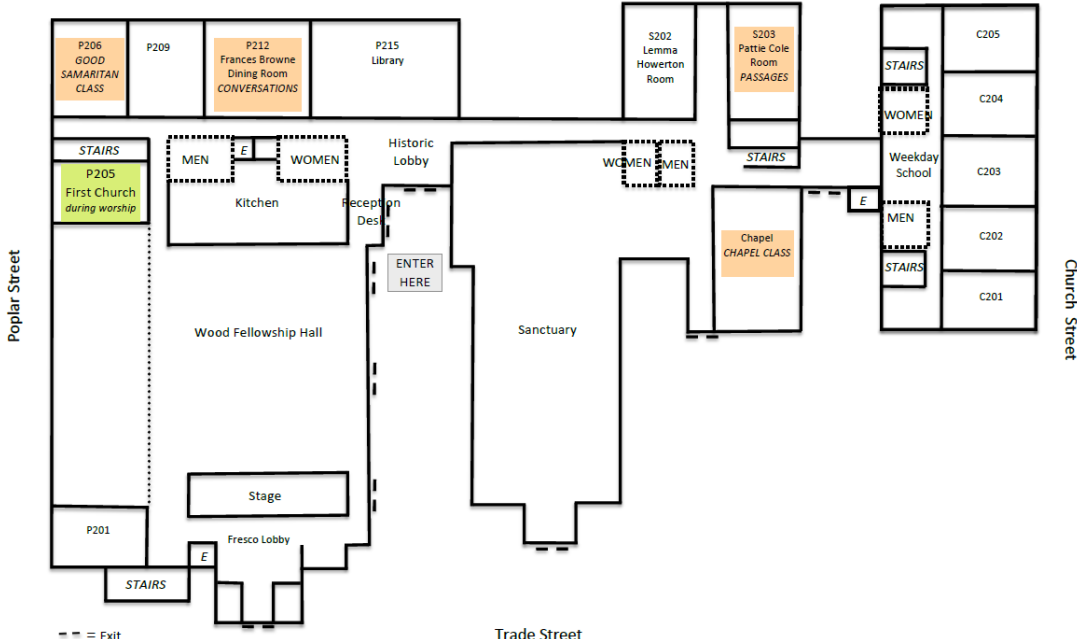
*If you have questions or would like more information about Adult Formation please contact
Garrell Keesler at gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org or
Robert Galloway at rgalloway@firstpres-charlotte.org*

Church Floor Plan

First Floor



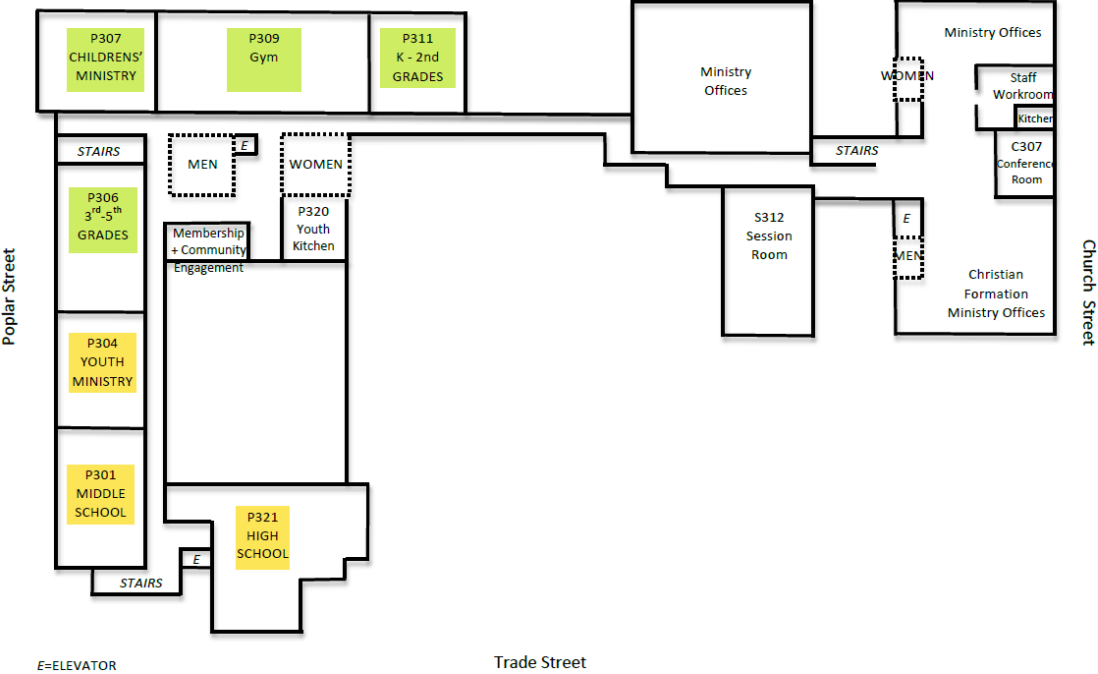
Second Floor



== = Exit

Trade Street

Third Floor



Children's Nursery & Formation Classrooms



Youth Formation Classrooms



Adult Formation Classroom



Forming *Youth* as Disciples

The youth ministry of FPC Charlotte exists to engage faith in community, to nurture belonging, and to empower discipleship, so that youth and their families live the Christian life.

Throughout this year, we'll explore what it means to belong to a community of faith, to belong to one another and to belong to God. At any youth event – whether it's a Sunday morning, PYC or a retreat – we'll foster this belonging by sharing meals, partaking in fellowship, praying and worshipping, playing and serving our neighbors.

- **Sunday Mornings:**

Middle School Youth (grades 6-8): 10:00 a.m. in P301 will continue to learn about the church's biblical ancestors while exploring what it means to belong to one another, to a community of faith, and to God.

High School Youth (grades 9-12): 10:00 a.m. in P321 will gather for donuts, visit with church friends, grow in faith through study, small group discussions, and intergenerational Sunday classes.

- **Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC):** PYC takes place most Sunday evenings from 6-7:45 p.m. Both middle and high school youth will share a meal in Wood Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. and then MS/HS split for programs from 6:30-7:45 p.m.
- **Grade Level Dinners (GLD):** Once a month, youth will gather for a meal and program at the home of someone in their grade. Evites with information and the RSVP list are sent out monthly.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation is a time for 8th graders to confirm their baptismal vows, explore their faith and claim it as their own, deepen their relationship with God and discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and part of the Presbyterian tradition. If your 8th grader youth is interested in participating, please contact Natalie Raygor.
- **Interested in Serving?** We are always looking for advisors, teachers, and adults willing to build relationships with our youth, work behind the scenes and deepen their own faith and leadership by being in ministry with young people. Those interested in volunteering with youth should contact Natalie Raygor or Bryce Lapping.

*If you have questions or would like more information about Youth Formation please contact
Natalie Raygor at nraygor@firstpres-charlotte.org or
Bryce Lapping at blapping@firstpres-charlotte.org*

Forming *Children* as Disciples

One of our highest priorities at First Presbyterian Church is to nurture discipleship at every age. We partner with parents and church members to provide opportunities for our youngest members to grow in faith. Here are some of the ways we seek to deepen the discipleship of children and families on Sunday mornings during the year:

- **Nursery Care:** 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. provided for infants through TK by our caring and trained staff, on the first floor of the Poplar Street building. Nursery is also offered for all-church events at other times during the week, through online registration.
- **Preschool Christian Formation:** 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. (15 minute lesson) provided for children two years of age through TK includes sharing Bible stories, prayers, and songs.
- **Elementary Christian Formation:** 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. provided for children Kindergarten-fifth grade includes sharing Bible stories with fun and faith-building crafts, games, songs, and videos. There are also special holiday and service events woven into these Sundays. Rooms: K-2nd grade (P311) and 3rd-5th grade (P306).
- **Milestone Studies and Courses:**
 - 3rd grade Bible (10:00 a.m./January-March/ P307)
 - 3rd -4th grade Sacrament Education (11:00 a.m./October/P307)
 - 4th grade Catechism (10:00 a.m./January-March/P306)
 - 5th grade Who Am I? (10:00 a.m./January-March/P304)
- **First Church:** during the 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. worship services for children in K-2nd grade includes participating in the leadership and practices of a simplified worship service.
- **Wiggle Room:** during the 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. worship the service is streamed into the Chapel for anyone who needs a little more room to stretch.
- **Worship Bags & Bulletins:** during the 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. worship services for children in 3rd-5th grades. Bags are located in the main entrance to the sanctuary. The ushers in the rear of the sanctuary hand out the children's worship bulletins.

If you have questions or would like more information about Children's Formation please contact

Tammy Winchip at twinchip@firstpres-charlotte.org

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