

Called to Grow the Next Generation: Sunday School Volunteers Needed

At St. Matthew UMC, we believe children are not the future of the church—they are the church, right now. Their questions, their laughter, and their deep capacity for wonder are gifts to our whole community. As we continue living into our mission to be “a Christian community for everyone—where joy is shared, laughter is welcome, and all belong,” we need caring adults to help nurture that faith.

We are seeking volunteers to serve in our **Sunday School class for elementary-aged children (up to six children each week)**. Each Sunday, we need **two adults** to lead the class together.

You do not need to commit to serving every week. Because the materials are already prepared and coordinated with our worship series, we can create a rotating schedule with several volunteers sharing the responsibility. If you could serve once a month—or even occasionally—that would make a meaningful difference.

The goal is not perfection, but presence: to listen, to guide conversation, to help children wonder about God’s love in ways that connect with what the whole congregation is exploring in worship.

What’s Required?

To ensure the safety and well-being of our children and vulnerable adults, all volunteers must be part of our St. Matthew community and complete **Safe Gatherings** training. Safe Gatherings is a nationally recognized program that includes:

- Best practices for child and vulnerable adult safety
- Awareness and prevention training
- A background check

There is a \$45 fee for the training. **If the cost would prevent you from volunteering, please know that the church will gladly cover the expense.** We never want finances to be a barrier to serving.

A Season of Transition—and Opportunity

We are currently in a time of transition as we explore broader options for children and youth ministry. While those plans are still being discerned and finalized, Sunday School continues to be an important and steady ministry of faith formation.

The pastor will be leading the youth through confirmation and spring activities, but our elementary children need consistent, caring adults who will show up, build trust, and reflect Christ's love.

Could This Be You?

You don't have to be a theologian. You don't have to have all the answers. If you can listen well, ask good questions, and offer kindness, you are already well on your way. Perhaps this is an opportunity to:

- Share your faith in simple, meaningful ways
- Build relationships across generations
- Support young families in our congregation
- Participate in shaping the next chapter of our church's ministry

If you feel even a small nudge of curiosity, please reach out. We would be happy to answer questions, walk you through the process, and help you discern whether this is the right fit for you.

Together, we can create a safe, joyful space where our children learn that they are known, loved, and called by God.