

## CHS Education and Learning Opportunities – 2025

**“To become like Christ as we serve others, proclaim God’s love, and grow in the spirit.”**

In support of our mission, everyone in our community has the opportunity to nurture and grow their spirituality and faith. We are a learning community that offers a variety of opportunities for children and adults beyond the Sunday Worship service. We have prepared a list of options currently available and encourage input and suggestions for other education/learning ideas for our community.

The list includes a short description of the activity, days and time offered, and leader coordination and email, as well as a quote from someone who has been involved with this activity.

Please take time to prayerfully review and perhaps find those activities that might be of interest to you. There is room at the end for comments or suggestions and your name. Or contact Janet Matts [janetmatts@gmail.com](mailto:janetmatts@gmail.com) or Tricia Simpson-Curtin [simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com](mailto:simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com) with any questions/feedback.

**Theology on Tap** – Discussion of books, short stories, articles that are related to our faith, scripture, theology, church history, etc. Led by Rector or Interim Priest. Usually meet in person, except for the Winter months. Qtr. 1 ‘The Tao of Thomas Aquinas’ by Matthew Fox – Zoom sessions, 6 sessions. Qtr. 3, 4 TBD

*“Theology on Tap is good because I read things I wouldn’t necessarily read otherwise. It opens your mind up to new ideas and different possibilities. But mostly, it is about the community. It’s a way to get to know people better. It’s really very nice.” Roberta Maas*

**Bagels and Books** – A book discussion group that reads secular best-selling books selected from the ‘book sets’ at the North Hunterdon County library, free of charge. Meets every two months after 10 am Sunday service. Led by Suzanne Higgins [suzanne.l.higgins@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.l.higgins@gmail.com)

*“It’s a fun group! We read really interesting books that I’d probably not pick up on my own. The discussions are quite lively, and we almost always find a way to connect it back to our Christian beliefs. It’s educational and enlightening.” Marge Keller*

**Children’s Formation** – An educational and fun opportunity for young children three times a month at 10 am on Sundays focused on faith-based activities reflected in the church calendar and involvement in CHS services and activities. Adult volunteers lead the sessions. Lindsay Wyglendowski [wyglos@gmail.com](mailto:wyglos@gmail.com) coordinates the curriculum and volunteers. It’s a lot of fun to sign up for a session!

*“Organizing and sometimes teaching the Children’s Formation allows me to connect more with the children individually and bring them closer to Jesus through prayer, the gospel, and meaningful work that benefits others.” Lindsay Wyglendowski*

*“There’s always something to do, fun activities. I really like the blanket tying.” Evan Wyglendowski*

**Youth Group** - An educational and social opportunity for teens one – two times monthly. Educational, social, volunteer, and support for CHS activities, i.e. Mother’s Day breakfast, Feed My Starving Children, special church services, etc. are coordinated through Lindsay Wyglendowski [wyglos@gmail.com](mailto:wyglos@gmail.com) and adult volunteers support their efforts. This group is ready to help any interested teen in their Confirmation journey.

*“We get to meet different adults and do fun things, even though we’re a small group. I especially liked the pie-making, Feed My Starving Children, and bowling together.” Lily Wyglendowski (over)*

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**Bible Study** - Weekly discussion of Gospel reading for the following Sunday service, currently at Spinning Wheel Diner, weekly on Tuesdays at 7 am year-round. Deacon Dot [dnhospador@gmail.com](mailto:dnhospador@gmail.com) coordinates the sessions.

*“Bible Study is a wonderful way to start your day! We read and contemplate the reading for the week. No need to commit to every week. Participants join when time allows.”* **Gabrielle Bolarakis**

**Sangha Meditation** – Small Meditation community that meets in the Sanctuary, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 6:45 – 7:15 pm. Typical practice includes a short sitting meditation followed by a walking meditation, or a guided meditation, e.g. Tea Meditation. No experience needed. Chris Wylendowski [wyglos@gmail.com](mailto:wyglos@gmail.com) coordinates the sessions.

*“Being together in quiet prayerfulness is calming, healing, and connecting for me.”* **Chris Wylendowski**

**Lenten Program** – A four week Lenten program March 19, 26, April 2, 9, led in 2025 by Father Tim Mulder using the book, **‘Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times,’** by Otis Morris III. The book can be purchased on Amazon and we are planning to have the sessions in-person and available through Zoom. Sign up on-line or in the Narthex.

*“Having participated in past Lenten programs, a good opportunity to focus on our faith and share thoughts and actions that help to strengthen that faith during the holy season of Lent.”* **Janet Matts**

**Documentaries and Discussion** – A new addition that focuses on a key issue related to our Mission: “To become like Christ as we serve others, proclaim God’s love, and grow in the spirit.” We will watch a documentary or movie, followed by a discussion in Dove Hall. Contact Tricia Simpson-Curtin [simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com](mailto:simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com). Some examples include:

- **“Will and Harper”** - When Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to embark on a cross-country road trip to process this new stage of their relationship in an intimate portrait of friendship and transition.
- **“A Case for Love”** - The teachings and writings of Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry, most well-known for his passionate sermon about “The Power of Love” at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. This feature-length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically—unselfish—love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.

**Interfaith Sacred Journey Ministry** – This ministry is a religious and cultural educational experience for parishioners of CHS, family, friends and others. ALL are welcome to attend **any** of these visits. This is an opportunity for participants to deepen their spirituality, connect and learn about other faith traditions along with dismantling myths, misconceptions, and misunderstandings of other faith traditions by learning and experiencing first hand. Visits include the Hunterdon Islamic Center of Hunterdon County/Mosque, SRI Venkateswara Temple in Bridgewater, St. Anne’s Greek Orthodox Church in Flemington, Kadampa Meditation World Peace Buddhist Temple in Glen Spey, NY, Flemington Jewish Community Center, and Garden State Sikh Association/Temple in Basing Ridge. Two new additions this year: Ukraine Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, and Greater Shiloh Church in Easton, PA. At each faith visit we attend their religious service, have a guided tour, Q & A session and at many of the visits a cultural lunch with members. Visits are usually on a Friday or Saturday during the months of June – August 2025. Deacon Michelleleslie [deaconmichelleslie@gmail.com](mailto:deaconmichelleslie@gmail.com) coordinates these visits.

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### Other Possible Ideas:

**Spirituality and Aging...how our faith deepens as we age**

**Reaffirmation of Faith curriculum** – Reconstruct what used to be a process for those in the church that were fairly new or wanted to learn more about the history of the church and the Episcopal faith, and deepen their understanding.

**Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows** – Has been done in the past at CHS.

**Your suggestions/comments/thoughts:**

**Don't forget to include your name!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_