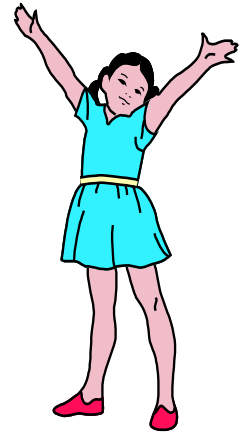
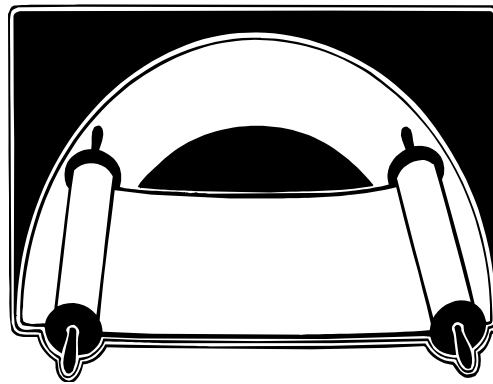


Parent and Student Religious Education Handbook



2009-2010
SCHOOL YEAR

Department of Education:

Sally Stefano, Director of Education

Karen Elson, Assistant Director of Education and
Family Jewish Educator

Rabbi Gary A. Huber

Andrea Adkins, Religious School Committee Chair



Congregation Beth Tikvah

6121 Olentangy River Road, Worthington, Ohio 43085

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bethtikvahcolumbus.org

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Beth Tikvah's Religious and Hebrew School programs for 2009-2010. This handbook contains important information about the operation of our Religious/Hebrew Schools and the policies we follow. There are calendars on the final pages that you will want to keep handy as a reference.

As always, we are here to serve you. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us at the numbers listed below.

Sally Stefano, Director of Education

885-6286, ext. 38, sstefano@bethtikvahcolumbus.org

Karen Elson, Asst. Director of Education and Family Jewish Educator

885-6286, ext. 17, kelson@bethtikvahcolumbus.org

Rabbi Gary A. Huber

885-6286, ext. 13, rabbihuber@wideopenwest.com

Andrea Adkins, Religious School Committee Chair

789-0684, adkinsa@wowway.com

Beth Tikvah's Religious/Hebrew School programs are supported in part by grants from the Columbus Jewish Federation.

*O*ur mission:

To instill within our children a love of Judaism through the study of Jewish history, liturgy, Bible, holidays, ethics, customs, and values, and to inspire them to embrace their heritage and lead Jewish lives both inside and outside our Jewish community.

*T*he goals of Beth Tikvah's Religious School are to develop learners who:

- 1. are knowledgeable about the history, liturgy, sacred texts, traditions, values and ethics of the Jewish people.*
- 2. celebrate Jewish rituals and traditions in the synagogue and at home.*
- 3. participate in opportunities to explore personal relationships with God.*
- 4. recognize the place of Hebrew as the sacred language of our people and the language of the modern state of Israel.*
- 5. understand and appreciate the historical and contemporary relevance of the land of Israel in our lives.*
- 6. identify with the larger Jewish community of the synagogue, the nation and the world, both in the Diaspora and in Israel.*
- 7. feel obligated to perform acts of social justice, kindness and compassion.*
- 8. recognize the role of the family in Jewish life and Jewish education.*
- 9. value and respect the importance of individual choice for the person, family, and congregation.*
- 10. identify with Reform Judaism and its emphasis on contemporary thought and liberal practice.*

The goals of Beth Tikvah's Hebrew School are to develop learners who:

- 1. are able to participate meaningfully in worship services, not only in their own synagogue but in any synagogue, by providing a firm foundation in prayer.*
- 2. grasp that Hebrew is a living language by learning basic vocabulary and grammar as an introduction to modern Hebrew. Our curriculum includes more than prayer.*
- 3. demonstrate a grounding in the basic building blocks of Hebrew (roots, prefixes, suffixes), so that they may build their understanding of prayers, Bible, and modern language.*
- 4. achieve a level of competence which will lead to a meaningful Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.*
- 5. recognize values, concepts, and holiday observance through the use of the Hebrew language and Hebrew songs.*
- 6. are inspired with a love of the Hebrew language and with an appreciation of the importance of the place of Hebrew in Jewish life.*

Family Education at Beth Tikvah seeks to:

Empower families of all configurations to make informed Jewish choices in order to lead full Jewish lives, and to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which to explore those choices.

Strengthen connections among the generations and encourage positive relationships with other congregants, the wider community, and God.

Accept families where they are and facilitate their further Jewish growth by giving them the tools, support, and programming to enhance their Jewish knowledge and practice.

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Basic School Information:

Sunday Program

☆ **Session 1: 8:45-10:45 AM**

(Parent/Tot, Gan, Grades 1 and 2)

☆ **Session 2: 11:00 AM-1:30 PM**

(Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 – INCLUDES half-hour of Hebrew instruction)

☆ **Session 3: 4:00-6:00 PM Post B'nai Mitzvah**

(Confirmation I, II, and III for 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students. Confirmation II meets at Arlington Court on alternate Sundays)

Wednesday Hebrew School

☆ **Grades 3-6:**

4:30-6:15 PM



The Parent-Tot class has a holiday-based curriculum that uses story, song, and craft to teach 2½- to 4-year-olds about Jewish holiday observances. The class meets monthly. A parent or other significant adult must accompany the child to class.

Gan through Confirmation classes meet weekly. Gan is a multi-age 4- and 5-year-old class. In addition to our regular curriculum, students in Gan through grade 7 participate in music, library, holiday observances, Ask the Rabbi, and Family Jewish Education activities.

Students in Confirmation I, II, and III meet weekly. The classes are designed to address the interests and concerns of our teens as they fashion adult Jewish lives and include a significant commitment to community service and social justice activities.

The Confirmation III class prepares our students for their Confirmation service and includes monthly sessions with the Rabbi. This class takes an annual trip designed to widen the learning experience for students. This year's class will travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the L'Taken Seminar at the URJ's Religious Action Center on the weekend of December 11-14, 2009. Parents should expect an additional travel cost of up to \$500 beyond the cost of tuition. Parents and students will be notified of the plans for the trip early in the school year.

All children of Beth Tikvah members are welcome in our Religious School and Hebrew School programs. Children with special educational needs are fully integrated in Beth Tikvah's classrooms, if possible. Financial support through the Columbus Jewish Federation allows us to place an aide in the classroom to

assist the teacher under certain specific circumstances. The Federation also provides the services of a consultant, who observes children in classrooms as requested, and assists our teachers in adapting their teaching strategies to accommodate children with special needs. If you have questions about accommodations for your child with special needs, please call the Director of Education. The Department of Jewish Education and Identity at Federation can answer questions about the services they underwrite and can be reached at 559-3239.

School Policies:

◆ Attendance/Absenteeism:

Students are expected to attend regularly. Students must attend a minimum of 70% of the scheduled sessions of both Religious School and Hebrew School in order to successfully master the curriculum and maintain eligibility for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Teachers plan for student learning and materials are purchased with full attendance in mind. If your child is going to be absent, we ask that you let us know by calling the Religious School office at 885-6286, ext. 38, or ext. 17 for Hebrew School. (Messages left on weekends on the main office answering machine are not picked up until Monday mornings.) The Education office will follow up with families when there have been repeated or extended absences. Some make-up work may be assigned. If you know your child will be out for an extended period, please call to make arrangements for keeping your child up with his or her class. If we have your e-mail address, we will e-mail your child's Hebrew school homework.

◆ **Behavior:**

The learning and social environment for students at Beth Tikvah is based on core Jewish principles of *kavod*, respect, *chesed*, acts of loving-kindness, *shalom*, peace, and *k'hilah*, community. We actively teach these values as the foundation for interpersonal relationships within our school community.

Students are expected to treat teachers and other students with respect and to speak respectfully to everyone. Students are also expected to demonstrate respect for the synagogue and its property.

The Religious and Hebrew Schools are committed to creating a learning community that is free from any form of harassment or bullying. This includes behavior that ranges from physical or verbal threat, harassment, or social isolation directed by a student or group of students against any other student. Any incident of bullying or harassment will be regarded very seriously and may be grounds for disciplinary action.

We hold high expectations of student behavior toward other students, teachers, and the synagogue environment. We ask parents to assist us in maintaining these expectations. Parents will be notified when students demonstrate that they are unable to meet these standards and will be asked to work with the teacher and the Director of Education to create a plan that will enable the student to participate successfully in the school *k'hilah*.

We also ask that parents monitor the appropriateness of student dress, keeping in mind that students spend time in the sanctuary and on the bima.

◆ Class Assignments

Students and parents will be notified of class assignments approximately one week prior to the beginning of school. Class lists will also be posted in the lobby during the first two class days each year. Class assignments are based on teacher and Director recommendations.

◆ Cell Phones

Cell phones are not to be used during Religious or Hebrew School. Students who carry phones will not be allowed to use them for phone calls or texting until dismissal. Please make sure your student understands this rule and is willing to abide by it before allowing him or her to carry a cell phone to Religious or Hebrew School. The office is staffed during each session, and the office madrichim will take emergency messages and deliver them to your student, if necessary. Students are allowed to use the office phone in emergencies.



◆ Early Dismissal

In the event that a student must leave class before the regular dismissal time, parents should send a note to the teacher. Parents **must** come into the building and go to the classroom to pick up the student, regardless of the age or grade of the student. **No student will be allowed to leave the classroom and wait in front of the synagogue to be picked up during either Religious School or Hebrew School.**

◆ Educational Requirements

— Bar/Bat Mitzvah

In addition to regular attendance at Religious School, students must complete four years of Hebrew study prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students must attend a minimum of 70% of Hebrew classes to complete the course of study successfully **and maintain eligibility for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah**. Students must also successfully complete Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring and private preparatory sessions with the Rabbi. The family's synagogue membership must be current and in good standing.

Students must enroll in and regularly attend Religious School during the years of their Hebrew School classes, their Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring, and the ceremony. A minimum attendance rate of 70% is required.

— Confirmation

Students wishing to be confirmed must attend a minimum of 70% of the Confirmation I, II, and III classes.

The Director of Education, the Rabbi, and the Chair of the Religious School Committee will make decisions about individual exceptions to any of these attendance policies.

— Hebrew Education

Students begin Hebrew education in 3rd grade with Alef class and proceed through 6th grade (level Dalet). The curriculum includes liturgy, basic grammar, and an introduction to modern Hebrew. Students study texts such as the Purim Megillah and the Passover Haggadah as well. Students learn to write in both print and script. There are two exams, one in mid-year and one at the conclusion of

the year. Teachers will contact families for telephone conferences in the fall, and are available to meet with parents as necessary.

Every other Wednesday, students participate in a worship service, led by the Dalet students, during the last 25 minutes of the session. Parents are cordially invited to participate and are asked to avoid picking students up during this service.

One-half hour of Hebrew review at school on Sunday mornings reinforces the work done on Wednesdays. Students are therefore asked to bring all Hebrew materials on *both* Wednesdays and Sundays. Alef students are given a Beth Tikvah tote bag; these should be retained all four years of Hebrew School. Students not enrolled in Hebrew school participate in a separate Hebrew track on Sunday mornings. For 7th grade students, the Sunday Hebrew program includes Torah study and Modern Conversational Hebrew.

—Hebrew Tutoring

Private Hebrew tutoring, at a higher fee, is available for children with learning disabilities or other impediments to success in the classroom. Enrollment in this option must have the approval of the Assistant Director and Director of Education. Please call the Assistant Director for further information about fees and policies. **Parents will be charged \$20 for appointments missed without notification to the tutor.**

—Service Attendance

Students in grades 3-6 who are enrolled in Hebrew School are required to attend **eight** (8) Shabbat services per year (either Friday night or Saturday morning). Regular congregational

services at any synagogue, Junior Congregation and Tot Shabbat services meet this requirement. Services other than regular Shabbat services (including Rosh HaShanah/Yom Kippur, even if they fall on Shabbat) are *not* counted toward this requirement. A service attendance sign-in book will be available at all Shabbat services. Younger children enrolled in Gan through grade 2 are encouraged to sign in as well and will be recognized at the end of the year for their service attendance.

◆ Emergency Closings

In the event of an emergency due to weather conditions or building maintenance, Religious or Hebrew classes may be cancelled. Notification of a closing will be sent by email to an address you provide for that purpose, and will also be made on WCMH Channel 4, WSYX Channel 6, and WBNS Channel 10. The closing notice will also be posted on the front page of the education portal.

◆ Home-School Communications

Communication between the home and school is an important part of student success. We make every effort to inform parents about programs, student behavior and achievement, or changes in students' schedules. If your child's teacher is tech savvy, you can access his or her web page through the Education Portal on the Learning page of the Beth Tikvah website. You can read postings and leave questions for the teacher. Report cards are sent twice during the year and all teachers are available for conferences by request. If you are concerned about your child's progress at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher. For other communications, we rely primarily on e-mail or the telephone. Please make sure we have current e-mail addresses

and phone numbers, and put us on the list of places to inform when there is a change.

◆ **Lost and Found**

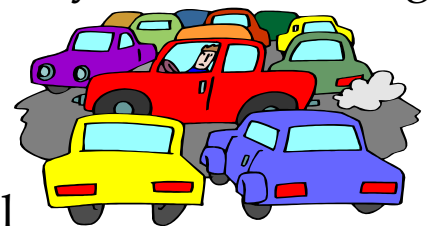
If your child leaves something in the building, it will be put in the Lost and Found, which is kept in the Education Department Assistant's office. Small items are usually kept by the Director or Assistant Director until someone claims them. Unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization.

◆ **Parking, Drop-off, and Pick-up**

Because of the heavy volume of traffic on Sunday mornings, and the significant risk to the safety of our children that accompanies that traffic, we must ask that you adhere strictly to the following guidelines, and that you understand that your children are required to follow them as well.

First Session: Parents are required to park and drop off and pick up their children at the classroom door. Please be prompt to help us make a smooth changeover from first to second session classes.

Second Session and Hebrew School: Each family will receive a carpool number which is to be displayed if you are driving through for pickup at the end of the session. Every family in established carpools will be given the same number. Please follow the posted directions and any additional directions given by teachers or parent volunteers. You may, of course, continue to park and bring your children into the building and pick them up when they are dismissed.



Third Session: Students may be dropped off and picked up at the front of the building, although parents are invited to come into the building and visit classes.

◆ Parent Involvement

Parents are always welcome at Beth Tikvah. If you wish to visit your child's class, **please check in at the office before going to the room.** If possible, please schedule your visit with the teacher in advance.

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved with their children's classes, including family education activities. Teachers frequently request help for special projects, and they are always on the lookout for ways in which parents can share their special areas of knowledge and skill with students.

Each grade, 2nd through 6th, leads a Shabbat service each year. Many of these special events are followed by a family Shabbat dinner to which the entire congregation is invited. These dinners can't happen without parents' help. See the Volunteer Opportunity list and sign up to help.

The Religious School office and the Religious School Committee also ask for help with special events. Please respond affirmatively if you can.

◆ Religious School Committee

The Religious School committee is the forum for parental input on programming and policies related to the operation of both the Religious School and Hebrew School. The committee meets 5

times each year. Please consider joining the committee and becoming an active participant.

The Religious School Committee sponsors several special events each year, including the fall Family Picnic, the Purim Carnival and the Jewish Education Shabbat service and family dinner honoring our teachers in the spring. Please plan to attend these events as a family and enjoy learning with the children and sharing with other families.

◆ Snacks

The Religious School provides challah and juice to first and second session students each week. Snack is communal; that is, each session will have snack together at a set time. The goal is to encourage the sense of community among the children and to provide an opportunity to share the ritual blessings. Each class will have a turn to “host” snack and provide a healthy snack for all the classes in the session. Because of the many children who are allergic to nuts, we ask that parents send snacks that contain NO NUTS. Fresh fruit and vegetables are always popular.

Afternoon Hebrew school students may purchase snacks at the Snack Shack before school. Snacks should be eaten only before class begins; there are tables in the back of the sanctuary for student use. Snacks are not allowed in the classroom.

◆ Travel to Israel

All Beth Tikvah youth are encouraged to participate in any community Israel trip. Those students who have met the requirements for Confirmation or who have been confirmed are eligible to receive subsidies for such a trip from Beth Tikvah. The

Columbus Jewish community provides a \$2000 subsidy for students traveling on an established program. The Union for Reform Judaism provides a certificate worth \$250 to each Bar and Bat Mitzvah to be used for travel on a National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) program in Israel for high school students. See the Director for more information about these and other programs.

◆ **Tuition**

Your annual membership renewal has information about enrollment and payment options. All students currently enrolled will be automatically enrolled for the next year's program and the fees will be added to your membership renewal form.

◆ **Tzedakah**

Judaism teaches us that it is our obligation to engage in *Tikkun Olam*, and to care for those who are less fortunate than we are. In an effort to make this Jewish obligation live for our students, each class will collect tzedakah money each week. There is also a bin in the lobby for donations to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, and a variety of other programs associated with the congregation's Social Action efforts. Each barrel lists the desired items. The children will be involved in the selection of the recipients of their monetary donations through our annual Mitzvah Mall. Classes will participate in special tzedakah projects throughout the year. The teacher will notify parents of these projects. Students' donations to tzedakah are entirely voluntary, but we believe that regular giving establishes the value of tzedakah and helps to make it a lifelong habit.

◆ What to do while your child in is Religious School

There are a number of choices available for parents who don't want to go home and come back. Beth Tikvah's Brotherhood operates Café Tikvah most Sundays during the morning session. Stop in, have a cup of coffee, schmooze a little. The breakfast dads make a full breakfast once a month. It's a great place to meet your Jewish friends. We occasionally do informal learning on topics of interest to those who frequent the Café during first session hours. We're open to other ideas. This is in addition to the regularly scheduled Adult Education Forums, Sunday morning Book Group, and periodic Family Education events.

Related Programs:

◆ Youth Groups

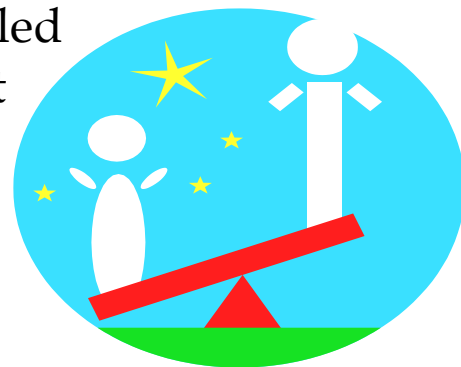
Beth Tikvah's senior youth group, **BethTY**, gives Jewish teenagers an opportunity to build a positive personal Jewish identity, and provides rewarding Jewish experiences. BethTY is a member of NFTY-OVR, the North American Federation of Temple Youth-Ohio Valley Region, and BethTY members attend regional events with other youth groups from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. BethTY's goals are to promote leadership, encourage group cooperation, and build Jewish community among peers. Other experiences open to BethTY members are the biennial national convention, and attendance at Kutz Leadership Camp. Matt Mazer is the BethTY advisor for 2009-2010.

Junior BethTY is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders and is designed to provide social opportunities and to introduce students to the world of NFTY. The NFTY-OVR sponsors a JYG kallah at GUCI for the region's junior youth groupers in March each year. Jr. BethTY plans approximately 5 events per year.



There is also a growing, parent-led youth group for children in grades 3-5, known affectionately as the **Junior-Junior Youth Group**. Parents plan and lead three to four social events per year.

Keshet is the family group for students enrolled in first session classes. Families meet approximately once a month for fun and learning. The kids have a great time, and the adults have been known to have fun, too. Gillian Warmkessel leads this group.



◆ Family Education



Family Jewish Education is an important component of religious education at Congregation Beth Tikvah. Programs such as Junior Congregation and Tot Shabbat, as well as grade-level and adult events allow you to learn with your children and participate in their Jewish education. Watch *Tikvah Topics* and your mailbox for more information.

◆ Junior Congregation

Junior Congregation Shabbat services, held at 6:45 PM in the sanctuary, are intended for families with students in 3rd through 6th grades.

October 16

January 22

April 23

November 20

March 12

A concurrent Junior Congregation will be held during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services.

February 5 at 8:00 pm is Family Participation Shabbat.

◆ Tot Shabbat

Shabbat services, held at 6:45 PM in the sanctuary, are intended for families with young children.

August 28

January 8

April 9

November 6

February 5

June 11

December 4

March 5

Parent-Tot Calendar 2009-2010

August 30

February 7

October 4

March 7

November 8

April 18

December 6

May 16

January 10



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 2009-2010

School Dates

Semester 1:

August 30
September 6 - **No School**
September 13
September 20 - **No School**
September 27 - **No School**
October 4
October 11
October 18
October 25
November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29 - **No School**
December 6
December 13
December 20 - **No School**
December 27 - **No School**
January 3 - **No School**
January 10
January 17
January 24

Semester 2:

January 31
February 7
February 14
February 21
February 28
March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28
April 4 - **No School**
April 11
April 18
April 25
May 2
May 9
May 16

School Not in Session:

Sept. 6 Labor Day
Sept. 20 & 27 High Holy Days
Nov. 29 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 20 & 27 - Winter Break
Jan. 3 - Yom Limud
Apr. 4 - Spring/Passover break

Special Sunday Events:

August 30 – Picnic onsite after opening day

November 15 – Camp Day

February 21 – Vendor Fair (afternoon)

February 28 – Purim Carnival

March 21 – Model Seders (Gan – 3rd grade)

April 25 – Mitzvah Mall

Other Special Events:

October 2 – Sukkot and First Grade Consecration

October 9 – Simchat Torah service

October 31 – Learning service and brunch (pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

November 13 – Congregational service and dinner, 1st grade naming

December 13 – Hanukah dinner

January 29 – Congregational service and dinner

February 5 – Family Participation service

February 19 – 6th grade service

February 27 – Megillah reading

March 19 – 5th grade service

April 16 – Congregational Shabbat service and dinner

May 7 – Congregational service and dinner

May 21 – Confirmation

HEBREW SCHOOL 2009-2010

School Dates

Semester 1:

September 2
September 9
September 16 - **No School**
September 23 - **No School**
September 30
October 7
October 14
October 21
October 28
November 4
November 11
November 18
November 25 - **No School**
December 2
December 9
December 16
December 23 - **No School**
December 30 - **No School**
January 6
January 13

School Not In Session:

Sept. 16 & 24 - High Holy Day Brk
Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 & 30 - Winter Break
March 31 - Passover Break
April 7 - Spring Break

Semester 2:

January 20
January 27
February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31 - **No School**
April 7 - **No School**
April 14
April 21
April 28
May 5
May 12

Special Events:

Sept. 30 - Sukkah decorating
during school
Wk of Nov. 16 - Teachers call
parents-phone conferences
Jan. 13 - Midterm Test
April 14 - Yom Hashoah
Observance during school
May 5 - Final Test

Shabbat Class Services and Family Holiday Worship

- **Consecration of 1st Graders**
Friday, October 2, 7:30 PM
- **Simchat Torah Family Service**
Friday, October 9, 7:00 PM
- **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Learning Service and Brunch**
October 31, 2009
- **Congregational Service and dinner**
Friday, Nov. 13, 6:15 PM service followed by dinner at 7:00
- **Family Hanukkah Dinner**
Sunday, December 13, 5:30 PM
- **Congregational Service and dinner**
Friday, Jan. 29, 6:15 PM service followed by dinner at 7:00
- **Family Participation Service**
Friday, February 5, 8:00 PM
- **6th Grade Service**
Friday, February 19, 7:30 PM
- **Purim Megillah Reading**
Saturday, February 27, 6:30 PM
- **5th Grade Service**
Friday, March 19, 7:30 PM
- **Congregational Service and dinner**
Friday, Apr. 16, 6:15 PM service followed by dinner at 7:00
- **Congregational Service and dinner**
Friday, May 7, 6:15 PM service followed by dinner at 7:00
- **Confirmation**
Friday, May 21, 8:00 PM

