

## **First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Center Christian Education Program Overview**

### **WOW Program Overview:**

The WOW program offers a mid-week opportunity for youth and adults to come together for bible study, recreation, music and fellowship. The purpose of WOW is to teach, mentor, and support our youth as they develop and grow in Christian faith.

The WOW program can only function with the help of many volunteers. Parents are needed to help with the program in some way each year. All members of the congregation are encouraged to support this program as well. Areas where you can help include being a table parent, kitchen helper, cook, dinner dean, teacher, class room assistant, special helper for activities or other events. Contact the Christian Education chair for more information and to volunteer.

### **Schedule:**

The WOW program schedule is below.

5:00 – 5:10	Opening
5:10 – 5:45	Class
5:45 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 - 7:00	Break Outs (Music, Activity, Confirmation, Linkage, Book Clubs, etc.)

\*\*\*If school is cancelled or let out early due to weather WOW will not be held.

Parents are responsible for drop off and pick up. Parents are encouraged to arrive 10 – 15 minutes early to communicate with teachers and other WOW volunteers about the night and to be available if activities wrap up early.

If alternative arrangements have been made for drop off or pick up please let the church office know in advance.

Youth are encouraged to invite friends and other members of the community to join them for the WOW program. If a child is planning to bring a visitor we would like to know in advance. Arrangements for visitors can be made with the church office or by contacting a WOW volunteer.

**Registration and Fees:**

Youth attending WOW must be registered. Contact the church office for a registration form. Registration forms should be returned to the church office or the Christian Education chair.

A registration booth will be setup the first night of WOW for convenient registration.

Cost for WOW is \$50 for one child and \$30 for each additional child. Adults who eat regularly with us are asked to contribute \$25 for meal expense.

The program fee covers the cost of meals and supplies for the year.

Parents should pay program fees upon registration. Scholarships are available to those who are interested, please contact the pastor for more details.

**OTHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:****Confirmation:**

Confirmation will be held for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders or anyone older who has not yet been confirmed. Confirmation is a one year program lead by the pastor. Confirmation will follow the WOW schedule and will be held during the WOW class time period. Additional confirmation events or class times may be arranged by the pastor as needed.

**Linkage:**

Linkage is a program for middle and high school youth which is primarily focused on service, fellowship, and fun.

Linkage events will be announced during the year as they are scheduled.

**Adult Book Club:**

Adult book club is held immediately after WOW dinner. The facilitator of this club will provide details as they are known.

**Sunday School:**

Sunday school for Pre-K is held before worship. Sunday school is held for older youth at various times throughout the year. Sunday school includes bible study, craft, snack and music.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **WOW:**

#### **Table Parents:**

- Sit and supervise the kids during meal time.
- Arrive 10 - 15 minutes ahead of meal time to assist with table setup.
- Select a table hopper. The table hopper will be the person responsible for going up to the kitchen to get food and drink. The table hopper will also help clear the table when the meal is finished.
- Assist the table hopper as needed to get food, drink and help clear the table.
- Assist with serving food and drink especially for the little ones.
- Help gather dirty dishes and ensure the table is clean when the meal is finished.
- Lead the group in the dinner prayer provided.
- Lead the group in thanking the cooks.
- Help the kids understand and use good table manners:
  - Elbows off table
  - Polite passing of dishes
  - Please and Thank You
  - Do not talk with your mouth full
  - Stay at the table and sit properly in the chair
  - Treat everyone like a child of God
  - No inappropriate conversations or activities at the dinner table
- Engage the kids in friendly conversation about their day and talk about what is happening in their life. Help everyone get to know each other and feel included at the table.
- Ensure the kids do not get up unnecessarily, run around, or be disruptive.
- Permission is needed to leave the table -- there should only be one person on a bathroom break at a time.
- After the meal, provide feedback to the dinner dean on how well your table behaved to help them win the treasured manners trophy.
- Assist with getting your kids off to their next activity when meal time is finished.

#### **Dinner Dean:**

- Ring the bell when dinner is ready. Ask everyone to take their seats and settle down.
- Make any needed announcements.
- Lead the group in the dinner prayer.
- As needed provide dinner time activities that encourage conversation.
- Observe manners during meal time at all the tables.
- When the meal is finished help the group call out the cooks.
- Lead the group in thanking the cooks.
- Provide Prayers and Thank You messages for each table.
- Ask the table parents about how well their table behaved and why they deserve the manners trophy.
- Hand out the manners trophy with much pomp and circumstance.
- Announce the next activity and help the kids get to their next activity.

- Ensure the manners trophy treat supply is stocked for the year.

#### **Kitchen Crew:**

- Set up:
  - Set up any extra tables or chairs needed
  - Set the tables for dinner – plan for 6 tables with 6 place settings each. This includes plates, glasses, silverware, napkins etc.
- Assist cooks with meal prep:
  - Chop, cut, mix, and stir
  - Taste test
  - Put food in servicing dishes
  - Fill water pitchers
  - Get out condiments
  - Monitor table hoppers to ensure they take one of each dish
  - Replenish servicing dishes
  - Help pass out and serve food and drink as needed
- Clean up:
  - Wipe down tables after dinner
  - Wash, dry and put away dishes
  - Run dish washer
  - Store and put away all food
  - Clean all kitchen surfaces
  - Sweep and mop kitchen floor
  - Take out garbage
  - Vacuum narthex
  - Put away any extra tables or chairs

#### **Cooks:**

- Establish and follow a menu for the year.
- Plan meals which generally include a main course, side, veggie, fruit and dessert.
- Purchase groceries and other needed supplies (reimbursement provided for expense).
- Cook and prepare tasty meals that are nutritious and kid friendly.
- Ensure leftovers are properly stored and given away or quickly re-used.
- Ensure food is fresh, properly prepared and good sanitary steps are used.
- Help keep the refrigerator clean and organized.
- Help keep the kitchen clean and organized.
- Assist kitchen crew as needed.

#### **Teachers:**

- Teachers are encouraged to sign up for two sessions. Each session includes teaching 3 consecutive weeks in a row in most cases.
- Review curriculum for the week(s) assigned and come prepared to teach the lesson.
- Curriculum will provide bible verses, activities, and other items to help you prepare and deliver the lesson.
- It is suggested to open class with a short prayer before you begin the lesson.

- Ensure all kids are involved in the lesson and be sensitive to special needs, age differences, and knowledge within the group.
- Ensure the kids treat each other with respect and as a child of God during class.
- Permission is needed to leave the classroom or group activity -- there should only be one person on a bathroom break at a time.
- Provide a safe and structured environment for everyone to learn and have fun.
- If you leave the classroom be sure to keep track of all kids and ensure they are supervised at all times.
- Discipline should be limited to removing the child from the situation. Ask the child to step out into the hall or a separate section of the room until they can behave better. If needed discuss any behavior problems with the Christian Education chair, pastor, or parents.
- Help to ensure the classroom is clean, organized and well stocked. If special supplies are needed work with the Christian Education chair.
- Ensure the kids get to dinner on time, wash hands if needed, and do not run in the hallway.
- Pick up and straighten up the classroom after class. Take out garbage, vacuum, whip down table and chairs if needed.
- Teachers are responsible for finding their own back-up if they have a conflict – see the Christian Education chair if you need help with this.
- Teachers will lead the after dinner activity when choir is not held. Activity suggestions are provided below or you may come up with your own age appropriate, safe and fun activity.

**Music:**

- Coordinate and provide Christian based songs, videos, piano, and other music related items for choir during WOW.
- Lead the kids in music activities.
- Lead the kids in music activities during worship and for special events.

**OTHER:**

**Linkage:**

- Help lead the Linkage program by organizing and coordinating a schedule of events including service work, field trips, and other fellowship opportunities.
- Recruit volunteers to support the Linkage program.
- Assist with events throughout the year.

**Sunday School:**

- Assist with Sunday school for Pre-K or older youth before worship. Sunday school includes bible study, craft, snack and music.

**Adult Book Club:**

- Facilitate adult book club. Select a book or video series for review and discussion.

## ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Kickball
- Waffle ball - softball
- Scavenger Hunt
- Apple rolling relay race
- Egg toss or egg in spoon relay race
- Continue activity provided in lesson
- Pin the tail on the dart board
- Bingo
- Board Games
- Word Search Competitions
- Cross Word Puzzle Competitions
- Coloring Contests
- Bubble Gum Big Bubble Blowing Contest
- Who's at your Table
  - Choose a runner – runners turn in left shoe to leader
  - Leader asks runners for each of the following information
  - Runners write information on paper and turn in to leader
  - First runner to collect all information and put back on shoe wins
    - Birthday                      Favorite Color
    - Age                              Name of brothers and sisters
    - Favorite Food                Favorite subject in school
    - Favorite Sport                Color of eyes
    - Favorite animal              Favorite ice cream flavor
    - Word that best describes you
- Talent night – kids come up front and tell a joke or perform a talent. Vote for winners.
- Bible Trivia
- Storytelling
- Make Thank You Cards
- Apple Turkey Hands – Trace Hands on Colored Paper. Make a hand of each color, use one for body and the others as tail feathers.
- Make cookie mix in a mason jar – give away as holiday gift
- Origami or German Stars
- Sing Christmas Carols or Other Songs
- Trip to Spurgeon Manner (Contact Michelle Hamilton in advance)

Note: Events outside of the church must be approved by the session in advance.