

Receiving Communion at First Pres

We offer a class for third & fourth graders that includes education and preparation for receiving Communion, but this in no way is intended to indicate that a child who is asking and interested should not begin receiving Communion before taking the class. Rather, this class is designed to give children an opportunity, as they grow in their ability to comprehend, to learn, and to study, to learn anew what the Church teaches and to marvel at the mystery of God revealed to us in Jesus and made tangible to us in the sacraments. Just as a child who is already baptized will still benefit from learning more about baptism after she has received it, so will a child who has already been receiving Communion benefit from learning more about what this sacrament means even if she has already been receiving it. There is no age any of us reaches where we completely comprehend what God is doing in the sacraments, and the milestone plan is designed, not as a substitute for one's own journey with Jesus, but as a set of guideposts or helpful stops along the way.

If your child expresses interest in receiving Communion before they are old enough to take the class, here are some helpful tips:

1. Be open to the conversation. Try to listen more than you talk.
2. Use the resources in the church library and in the check-in area upstairs to help prepare you for the conversation.
3. Please contact Pastor Jeff, Pastor David, or Lindsey Goetz, our Children's Minister. We want to pray with you, support you, and hear about the conversations you are having with your child!
4. Remember that Baptism is a prerequisite for receiving Communion. If you have questions about this, you can talk to one of the Pastors or to Lindsey.
5. We would like you and your child to meet with a representative of the Session to confirm their age-appropriate understanding of the sacrament and to celebrate this special time in their lives. This meeting can take place with Lindsey, or another adult in the church with whom your child is comfortable.
6. Celebrate the first time they receive Communion in a special way.

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firstpresaurora.org/faith-milestones