

Dear Families:

In class today, we focused on what it means to belong to a family of believers. We talked about how sometimes, we have good news to share with each other, and at other times we need to deal with more unpleasant news. For example, it was Jonah's job to deliver some unpleasant news to the people of Nineveh. Even though he was afraid to give them bad news and ultimately had to be convinced with a punishment of his own, Jonah ultimately ended up saving hundreds of people. We then studied a letter from Paul, which he had written to his church in Philippi. His news was encouraging, even though the church and Christians were facing persecution from all sides. He encouraged his church members to lean on each other when things were difficult. Because they were a community of strong faith and encouraged each other, they were able to survive a very dark period of Christian history.

This morning's lesson discussed what it means to be part of a church family. There are many ways that this church involves our youth- we really feel like contributors to our church and to God's mission! We usually gather as a family once a month for a meal; starting in October it will be the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship. The students love to help prepare a treat for this dinner, so we could really use your help on those Sundays. The youth here do other things that contribute to the church as well: participate in communion (usually the first Sunday of the month), help collect money for the Olean Food Pantry with our Noisy Can loose change collection (every 4th Sunday), light candles before and after worship, and hold various fundraisers throughout the year. Currently, we have a mini-rummage sale set up in Fellowship Hall. It will feature fall items/holidays. If you have any items to donate, we would appreciate the help!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan

CE Director