

The Stepping Stones of Faith:

Birth = rose on altar, which is delivered to family

6 months = Contact from Pastor to inquire about Baptism
(Whenever the child is baptized—now or later in life—a card will be sent each year acknowledging the anniversary of each child's baptism.)

Age 1 = birthday card from the church

Age 2 = begin sending them a *Stepping Stone of Faith* newsletter quarterly. (This newsletter will be sent to families with ideas for helping their children in spiritual development as various ages. The families will receive the newsletter through high school.)

Age 3 = invited and encouraged to attend Sunday school & VBS. Also each 3-yr-old receives a child's Bible.

Age 4 through Kindergarten = "Prayer Partners" assigned to them & their families. (You will meet your Prayer Partner at a Prayer Partner Party. PP's will pray for their child throughout the year & keep in touch.)

1st grade = Open the Bible at beginning of worship. Collect quarters during Lent for One Great Hour of Sharing.

2nd grade = Lead the Lord's Prayer in worship. Collect quarters during Lent for One Great Hour of Sharing. (This mission project continues through adulthood.)

3rd / 4th grades = Receive complete NIV Adventure Bible. "Bible Buddies" assigned to them. (You will meet your Bible Buddy at our Bible Buddy Breakfast. BB's will encourage you throughout the year to read your Bibles.) Acolyte Training offered for those willing to light candles for worship.

5th / 6th grades = begin participation in Seder Supper & Hanging of the Greens and Scripture readers in worship. Visit the Menard County Food Pantry and collect donations for pantry. Encouraged to go to church camp (information & scholarships provided)

7th / 8th grades = Confirmation (support from mentors); and Usher / Greeter training; and continue participating in Seder Supper & Hanging of the Greens. Attend Mission Day at Cunningham Children's Home. Encouraged to attend Your Obedient Servant Mission Camp in Petersburg.

8th Gr. Grads = honored at worship on Graduation Sunday

High school = Liturgist training or tech support training for assisting in worship; and continue participating in Seder Supper & Hanging of the Greens. Encouraged to participate in mission project or go on mission trip.

Jr. High & High school = Pizza with the Pastor

H.S. Grads = honored at worship on Graduation Sunday

College students = Care packages mailed before finals each semester (also sent supportive messages throughout the year). Given information on VIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission)

College Grads = honored at worship on Graduation Sunday

According to an old African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. Let us all join as a "village" to intentionally raise our children in the faith. If you would like to help with The Stepping Stones of Faith, please see helping ideas on the back of this brochure. We are blessed at Oakford with many children and youth. Let us support and encourage that which God has given us.

Ways to help with The Stepping Stones of Faith:

What can you give to help encourage our children and youth? Please choose something below.

Prayers—first, we need your prayers for this endeavor.

Giving of your time—

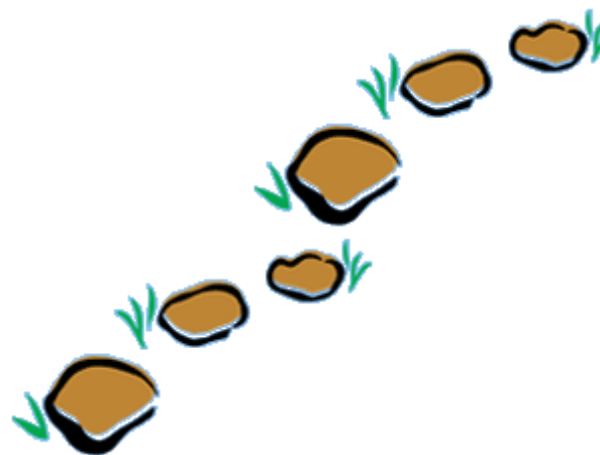
- Be a Bible Buddy
- Be a Prayer Partner
- Be a Confirmation Mentor
- Prepare food for Bible Buddy Breakfast (once a year)
- Prepare food for Prayer Partner Party (once a year)
- Help with baby roses (deliver rose to family)
- Help put together & mail college care packages
- Help with Stepping Stones of Faith newsletter
- Make phone calls to find volunteers for the above

Other donations—

- Forever postage stamps to send birthday & baptism anniversary cards and Stepping Stones of Faith quarterly newsletter
- Birthday cards for 1-year-olds
- A single red rose as needed for newborns
- Donation of Bibles (Child's First Bible and NIV Adventure Bible)
- Gift cards (to purchase Bibles) from Family Christian Store, Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Cokesbury
- Pizza Hut gift cards (for pastor's pizza with youth)
- Items for college care packages

When you decide how you want to support this ministry, please contact Pastor Judy, or place your donations in the Stepping Stones of Faith box. You may also leave a note in the box saying what you will do. (Please remember to include your name.)

The Stepping Stones of Faith A ministry of Oakford United Methodist Church



Intentional Faith Development
and Encouragement
for the children, youth, and young adults
of our church and community