



Summer 2021 Children's Ministry

General Information:

Starting June 13, our worship services will return to indoor worship. However, with children still not able to be vaccinated, our children's ministry will continue with modifications. Please carefully read the information below for our plans for children as we re-gather indoors.

1. Per our Bishop's request anyone not vaccinated is asked to wear a mask indoors, including children who are able. This request will be enforced by the honor system.
2. We do have immune compromised individuals, including children, who are unable to receive a vaccine at this time. To help with ventilation, the doors of our building will remain open. For the safety and comfort of others as well as your child's safety, please provide close supervision of your children before, during and after the service. Children should not be wandering around the building unsupervised.

Nursery Information (Ages birth-3):

1. For the summer we will not be volunteer-staffing our nursery classrooms; however, our classrooms will be open for infants and toddlers to use with parent-provided adult supervision (meaning either a parent or a person designated by the parent, such as a grandparent).
2. We will live-stream the service on our children's ministry laptop in the nursery. This laptop is used for our children's check-in before the service. Once check-in is complete, the laptop can be rolled into the nursery.
3. The classrooms have a bathroom, sinks, changing table and diapering supplies, trash cans, cribs and blankets, sanitizer wipes and developmentally appropriate toys for the designated ages of each classroom. Please feel free to use any toys and supplies provided. Please place any toys that are placed in mouths on the counter next to the sink, and if able, place toys back in proper places after use.
4. When using any of our changing tables, please place a sheet of the wax paper that is provided on top of the changing pad and wrap the dirty diaper in it and place in the small disposable dirty diaper bags when the change is complete, and then place in the trash can provided in the room.
5. Children in this age group do not need to check-in for children's ministry.
6. There is also a "Mother's Room" (Dads may use as well) in the back of the sanctuary. It also has a few toys, changing table and diapering supplies, rocking chair, and crib.

Children's Ministry Information (Ages 3-Rising 6th Grade):

1. We will continue with Children's Ministry outdoors; however, this will now be volunteer-staffed. Parents no longer need to attend unless scheduled to serve.
2. Children's Ministry will be offered weekly.
3. Children will be dismissed after the prayer just before the readings. Children may remove their masks and then follow the children's leaders at the front of the sanctuary through the door that accesses our back parking lot (it will be open during the service). Children will return during the announcements.
4. Children's Check-In is set up and ready to go. Please check in your children and place name tags on them before the service. A children's leader should be present at the check-in station to assist.
5. Praise Packs: To assist children in participating in worship, we will have "Praise Packs" available for all children ages 3 through 5th grade. These packs will have quiet objects to help with fidgeting, a self-adhesive craft, a small clipboard with a bulletin/activity sheet based on the scripture readings, and colored pencils. The packs will be labeled with your child's name. Packs will be located on hooks next to children's check-in and should be returned to the hooks at the end of the service.
6. Please see below for the description of our outdoor ministry to children called Gather, Garden, Grow:

Children's Ministry Outdoor Worship

Ages 3 through Rising 6th Grade

Gather

- We will present a Bible story from the beautifully illustrated *Read Aloud Bible Stories* by Ella K. Lindvall.
- We will quiet ourselves to listen and talk with God.
- Children can then choose from three areas to worship God through the work of their hands:

Garden

- “And he said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.’” Mark 4:26-27
- Each child will have their own shovel, gloves and watering can to plant, weed, water, and harvest crops.
- Leaders will give guidance on what the garden needs.

“Treasure” in the Field

- “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” Matthew 13:44
- Children may search for “treasure” in our large soccer field.
- The “treasure” will be an item related to the Bible story for the day. For example, when we read the Creation story, children will search for squeezable balls shaped like the world.

Let Our Light Shine (Art)

- “Then Jesus asked them, ‘Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine.’” Mark 4:21
- Each family will have a crate with art supplies located in their own labeled parking space in the basketball area of the back parking lot.
- Sidewalk chalk, crayons, colored pencils, large journal notepads, blank paper, glue sticks, scissors, clipboards, and crafts will be provided, allowing children to create free art in response to the day's Bible story.

GATHER

GARDEN

GROW

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John

10:10b

