

Children an essential part of the worshiping community at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

By their presence among us, we are reminded of the fullness of the body of Christ gathered. We are enriched by their curiosity and awe, sustained by their hope and trust, and challenged by their insights and questions.

At our sides, children experience God's house as their home, to know that they have been claimed by God and knit into community. At our sides, they will sing the songs, speak the prayers, greet brothers and sisters, hear the stories, and respond in faith. At our sides, they will ask questions that make us think more deeply, notice more fully.

Children are a vital part of our community.

At their baptisms, we embraced our responsibility to nurture them in faith. Welcoming children in worship, teaching them the songs and prayers and stories, listening to and responding to their questions, will enrich the whole body as we grow together in faith, praise God as one, and step out in discipleship.



This brochure is both for parents of young children and for the members of their adopted Christian family. It's contents will help all of us nurture the children who worship among us.

CHILDREN LEARN TO WORSHIP BY WORSHIPPING!



Sunday Activities for Kids

9:00 AM

242 Sunday School

For Preschool through High School students in the 3rd Floor Classrooms (Please ask if you need help finding the correct classroom.)

10:00 AM

Worship (Sanctuary)



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Please take this home!

Christian Education
at Westminster presents:

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



**A GUIDE FOR PARENTS, KIDS,
& OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR
CHURCH FAMILY**



Enter God's gates with Thanksgiving!

Share your joy about worship with our children. They will catch your enthusiasm. Express your gladness at having children in worship. After the service, be sure to welcome the children sitting near you. Encourage your children to greet other members of the congregation. When you make introductions, always introduce your children and introduce yourself to other people's children. Include them in your conversations to let them know they belong.

Sit near the front

An up-close seat allows children to focus on the action of worship rather than on the many rows of people that block their view.

Arrive early

During this time before the service you can help your child mark the pages of hymns and Scripture. You may have time to read over the Scripture or a hymn. You may wish to point out special parts of the service or spend time looking together at the furnishings of the Sanctuary (the font, table, stained glass, organ, artwork...)

Share your service bulletin

with young readers and help them follow along. Young children like to hold a book like the grown ups they see around them. New readers will be pleased when they discover a phrase or response they already know by heart.



Children grades 2-5 participate in worship monthly on Kid's Leadership Sunday.

Help your children learn their part

Help young children find their part in a hymn. Often there are repeating refrains that even non-readers will be able to join in on. Practice the songs of our church (the Offering's "Old Hundredth" or Benediction's "Choral Amen") at home, use them as prayers at meal time or bed time. Practice our prayers and responses at home.

Read the Scripture together

Help your child find Scripture passages so that they become familiar with the Bible. You may wish to read the Scripture passages and discuss them at home later. The questions you ask will help your child enter more fully into the Scripture and will reveal their own questions and insights.

- "How do you think Jesus looked and sounded when he said that?"
- "What does this say about how you felt yesterday?"
- "I wonder why Jesus enjoyed being in the temple so much?"
- "I wonder what this story tells us about what God is like?"



Speak to your children in a whisper, close to their ear

They might copy you by responding in the same quiet way. Be clear about the worship behavior you expect and express it in a positive way. (For example: "During hymns, we stand up and sing along," or, "This is a quiet time. We can talk after the next song.")



Grab a worship bag from the Narthex before the service

Worship bags include paper and crayons, among other items. Your child may wish to draw a picture of the Scripture or sermon on the blank piece of paper provided and place it in the offering plate as part of their worship.

Be realistic about limits

Children grow into their ability to participate in worship. Little ones may not be able yet to sit through an entire service. Our Nursery is available for kids in Preschool and younger, and located down the hall from the Sanctuary. Elementary age children are old enough to participate in liturgy with your help. You know your child best. Set realistic goals and praise your children when they meet them.

Sometimes...

Despite our best efforts, children can sometimes bother those around them. Please do not be embarrassed if you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes. Everyone has a bad day occasionally. There is a lot of grace in this space!