

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Philosophy of Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry at Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to serve two purposes:

1. To support children socially, emotionally, and spiritually as they grow in their own relationships with Christ and with each other.
2. To support families by providing a safe environment for their children to be cared for and nurtured while parents dedicate time to Christian growth and fellowship.

The goal of our Children's Ministry is to support our children through:

- **Conversion:** It is our deepest prayer and greatest hope that our children recognize the gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8) and come to know the Lord as their Savior, provider, and friend. (Matthew 19.14)
- **Discipleship:** As humans created in the image of God (Genesis 1.27), we recognize that our children reflect His characteristics. We also recognize that as our children are not yet fully developed, their reflection of God's characteristics is still developing. We strive to help our Covenant children develop into the men and women of God they were created to be. It is our goal through discipleship that our children will not only learn from their leaders, but also become like their leaders, and therefore more like Christ. (Deuteronomy 6.4-7, Proverbs 22.6, Isaiah 54.13)
- **Fellowship:** As we acknowledge the importance of Christian fellowship and in being in Covenant with God and with each other, we work to provide opportunities for our children to gather together with both their peers and the greater church body. We want to see our children grow up in the church and continue to be a part of that community after they graduate. We invite them to participate in all areas of the church life, serving and using their gifts as God has called them to do. (Hebrews 10.24-25, Ecclesiastes 4.9-12, 1 Corinthians 12.4-6)

To carry out these goals, we have several components of our ongoing ministry:

- **Nursery:** providing a safe, nurturing environment for our youngest Covenant children (newborn – 3 years old) during worship services, Midweek activities, and special events as we are able through the participation of volunteers.
- **Sunday School:** children 2 years old through 5th grade meet by grade level for a time of fellowship, singing, and learning about God and His Word.
- **Children's choir:** The Covenant Choristers (kindergarten – 5th grade) meet weekly to spend time practicing technique and learning pieces that provide opportunity to worship and glorify God in song. The Choristers participate in occasional Sunday morning services and our annual Christmas concert.
- **Midweek Classes:** these classes combine multiple grade levels and are divided into boys and girls classes. This provides additional opportunities for discipleship and fellowship apart from our Sunday School classes.
- **Special family and children's events:** opportunities for fellowship, discipleship, Christian education, worship, and reflection on church history and all that the Lord has done for us. These events include our Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, Music Camp, Shine Camp, and Forge Camp.

These ongoing ministry components would not be possible without the constant participation of volunteers from the church body. Because of the example laid out for us in Scripture and through the Covenants, we firmly believe that it is the call of every member of our church body to be a part of the regular discipleship and teaching of our children. We seek to involve members of all ages and from all walks of life. We provide training and support to ensure safety and adherence to our church's values and beliefs.