



GRACE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Children's Ministry

Our Vision: To Promote Generations of Godliness.

Children are gifts from God as a church we have a responsibility to be stewards of the gift of children. Every week, parents entrust this precious gift of their children to us to teach, care for, and protect. We consider this time not as a burden, but as a privilege and a weighty responsibility. While the primary burden of caring for and teaching children rests with their parents, as a church we also have a fundamental responsibility to point children to the truth.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, ESV.)

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15, ESV.)

Our Mission: To Glorify God

The children's ministry of Grace Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God in the following ways:

- Maintaining an appropriately safe and secure environment for our children.
- Making the whole counsel of Scripture known to children with special emphasis on the Gospel (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Romans 1:16-17).
- Praying for the children and relying on the Holy Spirit to regenerate their hearts through the faithful teaching of His Word (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 2:4-10).

- Living faithfully before the children and modeling for them how Christians are called to respond to God, interact with each other, and with the world around us (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1).
- Encouraging children to learn to serve and not just be served (Mark 10:43-45).
- Maintaining appropriate ethical standards such that volunteers and teachers live and serve above reproach, protecting the children of Grace Presbyterian church and the reputation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Polices and Procedures

The Children's Ministry at Grace Presbyterian seeks to always keep the children safe and secure, to encourage and assist parents in their role as the primary disciplers of their children and to teach God's Word to the children. To this end, we have adopted a Childcare Philosophy, Policies, and Procedures. (Available here [\[hyperlink\]](#).) All childcare volunteers are trained in and familiar with these polices, and are subject to background checks.

Children's Ministries During the Service

During the service, we have an Infants class (zero to 17-months old), Toddler I class (18 months to two-and-a-half years old), Toddler II (two-and-a half until promotion into 3's & 4's class) 3's & 4's (must be 3 by Sept. 1st). The latter two groups have a structured schedule that includes an age appropriate Bible lesson.

Children in Kindergarten and 1st grade participate in the main worship service and then are dismissed immediately before the sermon for children's church where they are taught a Bible story, learn a Bible verse, and sing songs. Second grade and older remain in the worship service with their families.

As part of the main worship service, the children present in the service are invited to come gather on the floor in the front for a brief "Children's Sermon." During this time, the pastor gives a short, interactive discussion using an objet lesson or story to illustrate the lesson from the Scripture he will be preaching in the sermon.

Extra Curricular

We offer Children's Sunday School Ages K-6th grade in the fall and spring. When Sunday school is not meeting, we offer a children's choir. The children's choir usually performs at our Christmas Eve Service and Easter Service.

Curriculum and Resources

In the Toddler II's as well as the 3's and 4's classroom we use the Show Me Jesus Curriculum. Each quarter they are taught an overarching theme. You can find more information here <http://www.gcp.org/DepartmentLanding.aspx?Dept=Toddler>

Our Children's Church Curriculum is by Desiring God. The children are currently being taught through the Old Testament. You can find more information here about the curriculum here <http://www.childrendesiringgod.org/curriculum/curriculaGroup.php?curriculaId=3>.

During our Children's Sunday School hour we use a curriculum based off the **Gospel Story Bible** written by Marty Machowky. (<http://gospelstoryforkids.com/portfolio/curriculum/>)

There are additional resources that can be used to go along with the Sunday School curriculum such as **Old Story New**- a 10 minute family devotion. (<http://gospelstoryforkids.com/portfolio/devotionals/>)