

YOUNG CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

An exciting experience offered for all children age 3 through grade 2 during the 9 a.m. worship service. Participants are excused after the children's sermon (approximately 20 minutes into the service) to their own Worship Center to experience God's word through storytelling, prayer, art and music. This program is designed to introduce children to the ways and meaning of worship, preparing them for participation with the congregation.

Every Sunday morning during
the 9 o'clock service

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Focusing on our commitment to uphold the promises made at baptism, our Sunday School program begins teaching our very youngest about God's love while introducing them to foundational Bible stories. As they grow through elementary, middle and high school, the curriculum expands from teaching Bible stories to studying God's word and how they can apply this to their everyday lives. Each class uses age appropriate curriculum, along multi-media activities.

Mid-September—End of May

Ages 3 thru 12th grade

10:10 to 11:00

3rd floor classrooms

See bulletin board in 3rd floor hallway
for classroom assignments

CHILDCARE

Our infant and toddler rooms are staffed with trained, loving care givers who are committed to making sure that our youngest members are happy, safe and comfortable here at church. We also have a paging system which will allow the staff to discreetly contact parents if they are needed to return to their children.

Sunday mornings September thru May

8:30 to 12:15

Summer 10 o'clock service

9:30 to 11:15

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mid-September—End of May

9:00 and 11:00

Summer Schedule

8:30 Outside Lakeside

10:00 Sanctuary



Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
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God's Children In Worship

A Guide for Parents and
the Congregation

We welcome children in our midst! Children bring much richness to the community gathered at worship. They also bring noise, awkward questions, loud toys and confusion! That's OK! We don't expect them to be still all the time. We encourage the wondering and the questions so that they will feel comfortable and know that they are loved by this congregation and by God!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

- Remember the commitment we made as a congregation at the baptism of children in our midst.
- Hand the offering plate to the children, not over their heads.
- Introduce yourself to the children and parents that you do not know.
- Pass the attendance book to the children to sign.
- Ensure that children have a bulletin of their own.
- On occasion, invite a child with whom you are acquainted to sit with you during worship.
- Be understanding when parents may need to take younger children to the nursery and then return to worship.
- Have patience with the learning process; we are all children of God.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

DURING THE WEEK

- Visit the sanctuary when it is empty. Explore and talk about what you see. The ministers would be happy to answer any questions you or your children may have about the sanctuary and worship.
- Take home a bulletin and go over the order of worship with your child.
- Talk about worship at home during the week. Encourage questions about worship.
- Practice some of the common prayers and responses with your children at home so that they will recognize them during worship.
- On the way to church discuss appropriate behavior in a positive way. *"I love to hear you sing praises to God, Hannah."*
- The Presbyterian Church USA invites all who are baptized to participate in the Sacrament of Communion.

SUNDAY MORNING

- Try to arrive in time to get settled before worship starts.
- Sit together as a family. Help children prepare by ensuring that they have their children's bulletin, a pencil, a Bible the first hymn opened in their hymnal, etc..

- Sit in the front of the Sanctuary. Children who can see will feel more a part of the service. On occasion, you might allow your child to choose where to sit.
- Allow/encourage children to write their own names on the attendance pad. (Print family name if necessary.)
- If necessary, walk with your child to the front of the sanctuary when it is time for the children's sermon.
- Whisper simple instructions that will help children understand and participate in what is going on- *"Now we're going to pray and tell God the things that we feel bad or sorry about."* *"The verse that we are reading is on your children's bulletin, let's follow along."*
- Whisper wondering questions to encourage children to listen and help them to pay attention- *"I wonder how Jesus felt when that happened.."*
- Remember that children will wiggle and fidget and that's Okay! They can at the same time, be profoundly impacted by worship, surprising us with what they have learned.
- Sometimes, despite our best efforts, children act up and seem to bother everyone around them. Don't feel embarrassed if you need to take your child out of the service for a few moments—everyone has a bad day occasionally. Take them for a walk or visit the library. The crib and toddler room is always available on Sunday mornings for your use. If nothing will do but to go home, know that the church will be here tomorrow and the week after that. We will always be glad to see you come back!