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Children's Sabbath

One Sunday in November each year, we celebrate the gifts of our children and give them voice as they express their faith. At Westminster the worship service is led by elementary-aged children and the children's choirs.

**Special Events
& Sunday Events**

Christmas Eve

A service for young children and their families is at 2:00 PM. A Nativity play is presented by fifth graders, and all children's choirs sing. Children are invited to bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank to present at the manger as their offering.

Palm Sunday

We celebrate with a palm processional in which all children are invited to walk and carry palms. Children's choirs sing at these services.

Easter

Services are available at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM on Easter Sunday. Because these services are visually and musically engaging, all children are invited to worship and to present their One Great Hour of Sharing banks during the offering. Sunday School classes do not meet on Easter Sunday.

All Church Retreat

Each April, we gather at NaCoMe for an all church retreat. All ages are welcome for a wonderful weekend of fun, fellowship and learning.

FaithWorks

This is a day of service with the whole congregation for families to serve together in the community. Younger children participate in projects at church.

Outdoor Challenge

Fourth and fifth graders participate in a weeklong, high adventure trip. This is a trip in which we conquer fears with the love and support of a faith community.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
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KINDERGARTEN

Godly Play will be used this year in our Kindergarten class. This curriculum is based on the theories of Maria Montessori and uses a unique way of telling Bible stories that invites children into the story. It is a wonderful way to prepare this age group for being in worship next year.

1st THROUGH 4th GRADE

9:45 AM • Assembly • Chapel
Children in grades 1-4 participate in the Workshop Rotation model. Each Bible story is taught for 4-6 weeks as the classes rotate to different rooms for different learning activities each week. Based on the theories of multiple intelligences, that every child has a preferred learning style, the Bible is taught and reinforced through drama, art, games, audio-visuials, computer, cooking, science or other appropriate activities. Volunteer adult shepherds greet children in the Chapel at 9:45 AM for Assembly then go with them to their room that day. Parents pick children up in the classrooms.

5th AND 6th GRADE

Feasting on the Word is a PC(USA) curriculum which is lectionary based. The scripture that is heard during Worship will be explored during Sunday School.



WORSHIP SERVICES

We welcome all children to worship, and we expect that when children are in first grade, they will begin to worship regularly with their families. WORSHIP BAGS, located in baskets just outside the sanctuary doors, are available for elementary children. Each bag contains some paper, a pencil, and crayons. Families are encouraged to pick up a worship bag for each child when entering the Sanctuary before the service and to return the bags to the baskets following worship, taking with you your child's drawings.

COMMUNION

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), children are welcome at the Lord's Supper Table. Our Book of Order says, baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity. W-2.4011b

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Alleluia Choir - kindergarten and first grade
Gloria Choir - second and third grades
Jubilate Choir - fourth through sixth grade
Chiming Children Handbell Choir - fourth through sixth grades

If your child is interested in participating in one of the choirs, please contact John Semington, johns@nashvillewpc.org.

MILESTONES FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

Milestone in Children's Ministry

Just as stones were used in ancient times by the side of a road showing the distance in miles to a given place, we are using milestones to mark a child's learning and growing in the Christian faith. We want to give both children and parents concrete tools as they grow and learn together in their faith journey. All of these workshops will be done with children and parents.

Kindergarten Worship Workshop – Sunday, April 21, 2024

Our focus in the spring will be to help our kindergarten children be ready to be welcomed to sanctuary worship. Children will be presented in worship at the 11:00 AM service.

First Grade Instructed Communion – Sunday, October 29, 2023

Our focus will be to learn about the sacraments of baptism and communion together. We will celebrate our first graders for learning more about the sacraments.

Second Grade Prayer Workshop – Sunday, November 19, 2023

Our focus will be to explore all the different ways we can pray as individuals, as families and as a community. The children will lead a prayer during the 11:00 AM service.

Third Grade Bibles and Journey through the Bible Sunday, September 10, 2023

Each September, Westminster presents children who have just begun the third grade with a New Revised Standard Version Bible during the 8:30 AM worship service. JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE is the workshop for third graders and their families to learn about their new Bibles.

FOURTH GRADE MISSION WORKSHOP – Sunday, February 25, 2024

Our focus will be on our call to partner with others in our own community and around the world. Parents and 4th graders will talk and do service together.

Fifth Grade Sexuality Workshop – Sunday, February 25, 2024

We will learn the basics of puberty together and connect their bodies with their faith. Children have classes together and parents have classes separately to think through talking with their children and communicating their values as their children grow.

Sixth Grade Talking About Tough Issues Together- Sunday, March 3, 2024

Join us for lunch on Sunday as Parents and tweeners think through how to have conversations together about tough issues. We will have fun and there will be some good food as well.

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