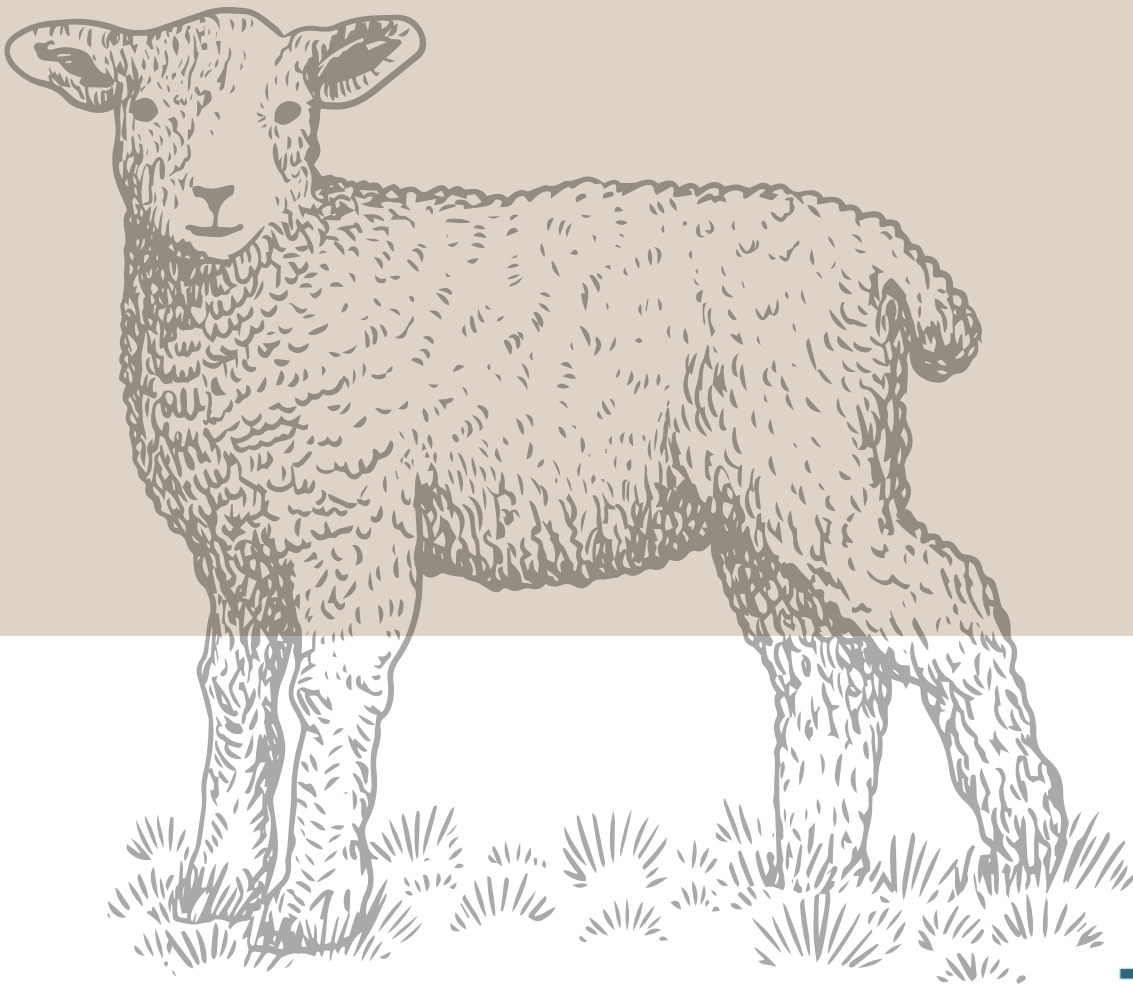


Westminster Children's Ministry



TASTE
and **See**
that the LORD
is good...

Letter from Sophie



At Westminster, we believe children are wonderful theologians—curious thinkers who ask meaningful questions about God. While children are often concrete thinkers, they also have a remarkable ability to embrace mystery in ways that adults sometimes struggle to do.

Our hope is to nurture their faith and help them grow in their understanding of who God is and to whom they belong. We do this through a variety of opportunities for learning, worship, and fellowship. Some are designed especially for children and others invite adults and parents/caregivers to learn alongside them. We believe faith is strengthened in community and across generations.

My deepest hope is that every child in our church feels known and loved by this congregation—that they know they belong here. We invite all of the children of Westminster to join us on this journey of growing in faith, and we warmly welcome parents, caregivers, and all adults to walk alongside them.

Together as we learn, wonder, and grow, we will taste and see the goodness of God and discover God's faithful, abiding presence in our lives.

Peace,
Sophie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT

Acknowledging our call to ministry with children, we work:

- To nurture children in the faith,
- To strengthen their ties with the household of God,
- To share the heritage of the Christian faith and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
- To involve and support parents in the Christian education of their children,
- To be living examples of the Christian faith.

Understanding that children, too, are called to ministry, we work to provide opportunities for children:

- To develop community with one another,
- To use their talents for ministry to the congregation,
- To be involved in service and mission to the global community,
- To share and be joyful about their learnings and their faith.



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.

SEPTEMBER 13
SUNDAY

Third Grade Bibles & Journey Through the Bible

Third graders receive personal NRSV bible at 8:30 a.m. service and learn about them during sunday school time.

SEPTEMBER 27
SUNDAY

First Grade Instructed Communion

Learning the sacraments of baptism and communion together

NOVEMBER 22
SUNDAY

Second Grade Prayer Workshop

Exploring ways to pray at an individual, family, and community.

FEBRUARY 21
SUNDAY

Fourth Grade Mission Workshop

Answering the call to partner with others in our own community and around the world.

MARCH 7
SUNDAY

Fifth Grade Puberty Workshop

Learning the basics of puberty and how to connect their body with their faith. Children have classes together and parents join us to think through how to have these conversations with their children.

APRIL 25
SUNDAY

Kindergarten Worship Workshop

Helping our Kindergartners transition to Worship
Children will be presented in worship at the 11:00 am service.

Preschool

SUNDAY MORNINGS



Westminster offers Sunday School for all children age two through the fifth grade from 9:45 am to 10:45 am every Sunday.

NURSERY Infant and toddler care is available during the Sunday School hour. Care is provided by trained, employed staff members.

PRESCHOOL Curriculum for our twos and threes preschool classes is the Spark curriculum published by Augsburg press. Every lesson is based on a Bible passage, and content and activities are appropriate for each stage of faith, physical, and emotional development. It is lectionary based. Our fours and pre-kindergarten children are using the same curriculum as last year written by Pam Koban, Ann Neely and Sophie Maness. These classes will be using the book *The Storybook Bible Growing in God's Love*. All teachers are teams of volunteers.

WORSHIP During Worship, childcare is provided for all preschool children during both 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 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.

NEW BABIES

BAPTISM In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we often baptize infants, but any age child or adult may be baptized. Parents of infants participate in a baptism seminar to help prepare them for this sacrament.

BAPTISM SEMINARS The week before each baptism Sunday, the church offers a Baptism Seminar to go over the liturgy of the baptism and all the logistics for such a special occasion. This is a wonderful way for parents to get ready for this faith journey with their child.

NEW BABY VISITS After the arrival of your new family member, the church has some goodies for the baby and the parents to say welcome to the church. Sophie Maness, Executive Director of Children's Ministry, or Ashley Higgins, Associate Pastor (Young Families) will come to your home or invite you to stop by her office. It is a special time to answer any questions about the church nursery and just get to know our staff better.



SAFE SANCTUARY The Session, acting on the recommendation of the Safe Sanctuary Task Force and the Children's Committee, determined that everyone who teaches, coaches, advises, or works with our children and youth must complete an application form and an online training session with Safe Gatherings. Safe Sanctuary is our coordinated effort to protect the children and youth who participate in our programs from any form of sexual abuse.

Elementary



SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

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

COMMUNION In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Westminster offers Sunday School for all children age two through the fifth grade from 9:45 am to 10:45 am every Sunday.

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.

FIRST THROUGH THIRD 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-visuals, 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.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

Connect is a PC(U.S.A.) curriculum. They focus on the Old Testament the first semester and the New Testament the second semester.



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

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

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



Special Activities and 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. Mark your calendar for April 10-11, 2027.

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.





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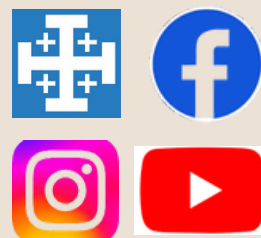
Socials...

Website: nashvillewpc.org

Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Nashville

Instagram: [wpcnashville](https://www.instagram.com/wpcnashville)

Youtube: Westminster Prebyterian Nashville



Stay in Touch

Do you receive the Kidcast?

We send a monthly newsletter to families with children ages 2 through fifth grade. If you'd like to receive it, just email Hannah at the address above or call the church office and ask to speak with her.

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**LIVING^{OUT}
THE WORD**
LOVE • RECONCILE • SHINE • TRANSFORM