

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

(updated Feb 3, 2021)

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Mark 10:14

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose of Children's Ministry is to nurture and support children and their families in their spiritual growth and development by offering outstanding children's ministry programs that share the good news of Jesus Christ and by fostering and encouraging mentor relationships between children and other adults in the church to help instill a deep and abiding faith.

CORE VALUES

Children's Ministry's core values serve as the foundation of our ministry area, guiding our decision making and the ways in which we serve our community. These core values are:

- Commitment to nurture the many relationships that impact and influence our children, including their relationship with God, their relationships with each other, and their relationship with the larger church community.
- Commitment to teach biblical literacy and promote children's knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Christian faith.
- Commitment to inclusivity - creating an environment in which children and families of all backgrounds and abilities feel welcome, loved, and a true part of the church family - including race, gender, culture, family make-up, dietary needs, and ability.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Children's Ministry's goals for the next one to three years are:

- Provide quality Christian education programs for children of all ages, that foster the values of our faith and community.
- Restructure Children's Church classes in order to best serve the current needs of our children and families, while still maintaining the quality of our offerings, including addressing the declining number of children and protecting the health of our children, their families, staff, and volunteers by conducting all programs online until the church leaders deem it safe to gather again in person.

- Work with other ministry areas to identify a mechanism for regular, cohesive collaboration among ministry areas to ensure an overall integrated church program.
- Maintain communication channels with marketing to raise awareness of Children's Ministry, Special Needs Ministry, and associated programs and events.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children's Ministry staff and volunteers work together to plan and implement all programs for children from birth through 5th grade. These programs include nursery/childcare, Children's Church, LOGOS, Vacation Bible School, Summer Children's Church, Children's Choirs, Special Needs Ministry, and special events.

Children's Ministry (paid and unpaid staff) consists of the Director, Associate Director(s), Special Needs Coordinator, Choir Coordinator, Childcare Coordinator, Current Elders, and other Elders or members as may be invited.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide religious faith education for our children through the planning and implementation of the following programs:
 - Children's Church
 - Summer Children's Church
 - LOGOS
 - VBS
 - Special Events
2. Develop, review, and evaluate curriculum for the above programs.
3. Plan and implement nursery/child care and support of the Childcare Coordinator.
4. Plan and implement Special Needs Ministry for children from birth through 6th grade and support of the Special Needs Coordinator.
5. Plan and oversee the Children's Choir Program and support of the Children's Music Director.
6. Provide leadership development and support for lay leaders working in ministry with children. This includes the calling, the development and training, and the nurture of lay leaders and volunteers
7. Evaluate financial needs and make recommendations for adequate financing of the ministry. Monitor ministry area budget and oversee children's facilities, equipment, and supplies usage.
8. Work in collaboration with Worship leadership to provide opportunities for children to participate in worship and mission.

9. Coordinate community outreach activities such as Movie Night, Advent Wreath-Making, Easter Egg Hunt, and "Trunk or Treat."
10. Inform the church and local community about the children's educational and outreach programs.
11. Support and resource children's activity leaders for All Church Events, such as Church Camp and the All Church Picnic.
12. Facilitate the transitions of children as they progress from Children's Ministry to Youth Ministry.
13. Support the Parents' Night Out program.
14. Collaborate with The Music School and PELC as appropriate for community-wide children's events.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Children's Church begins

Children's Choirs begin

Moment with Children/Teacher Dedication – usually the 3rd Sunday in September

LOGOS parent meeting and training

LOGOS begins

Safe Church Training (subject to change)

OCTOBER

Moment with Children/Choir sings/Bible Sunday – 2nd Sunday (3rd graders receive Bibles)

Movie Night (tentative)

Budget planning begins

Trunk-Or-Treat

NOVEMBER

Children's Stewardship campaign

Moment with Children/Choir sings – 2nd Sunday

Advent Wreath making

Safe Church Training (subject to change)

DECEMBER

Moment with Children– 2nd Sunday

All Church Christmas Program – All choirs sing

Christmas Eve – Children's Choirs sing and LOGOS Chimes Choir Plays

Family Worship Service if Christmas falls on Sunday

JANUARY

Session Retreat
Moment with Children – 2nd Sunday
Communion, Baptism or Stewardship Class

FEBRUARY

Family Worship Service
BLAST Retreat
Moment with Children/Choir sings – 2nd Sunday
Send home OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) banks with calendar the
Sunday after Ash Wednesday
VBS Planning and recruitment
Safe Church Training (subject to change)

MARCH

Moment with Children – 2nd Sunday
Palm Sunday – all children's choirs sing
LOGOS ends
Continued budget preparation and finalization

APRIL

Easter Sunday – Family Worship – no choir rehearsals
Easter Egg Hunt (may be in March)
Moment with Children – 2nd Sunday (not if Palm Sunday or Easter)

MAY

Moment with Children/Choir sings – 2nd Sunday
Family Worship Sunday
Children's Church recruiting begins
Movie Night (Tentative)
Safe Church Training (subject to change)
Children's Choir Performance
VBS Teacher and Volunteer Training
Safe Church Training (subject to change)

JUNE

Teacher Appreciation Event/Regular Children's Church ends - first Sunday of
June
Summer Children's Church begins - 2nd Sunday
Vacation Bible School
VBS children sing in Church
Children's Church recruiting continues

JULY

Moment with Children – 2nd Sunday
Children's Church recruiting continues
Summer Children's Church ends

AUGUST

Children's Church recruiting continues
Family Worship Services
Children's Church Teacher, Shepherd, and Buddy Training