

# Worship Enrichment Opportunities

The children's staff works hard to make worship a pleasant experience for you and your children, by providing age appropriate activity bags that help engage your child in the service and by providing worship enrichment opportunities at church.

## 9:30 Opportunities Extended Care: Ages 3-5

Extended care is a worship program that allows your child to continue worshipping with their friends by gathering them together before the sermon and presenting them with an age appropriate lesson, craft, and snack. Through this program we hope your child will grow in their knowledge and faith in God.

## Musikgarten: Kindergarten & 1st Graders

Musikgarten is an early childhood music experience using Bible stories as the basis for the songs we sing. One year they are stories from the Old Testament, the next year, the New Testament. We experience music through songs, dancing, rhythm instruments, and listening. All of these also enhancing various stories from the Bible.

## 11:00 Opportunities Children worshipping together: Ages: 3yrs-1st grade.

This program is for all children 3yrs-1st grade. They will join Rev. Tanya Eustace in an exciting age appropriate worship experience. On Communion Sunday they will return together for Holy Communion.

# A Note from TUMC Children's Ministry Staff

- At Tarrytown United Methodist Church, we realize how important these early years are in developing your children's faith, their relationship with God, and their love of worship.
- Because we believe in the importance of families worshipping together, we encourage you to choose a time for your family to attend Sunday school, and then to choose a time for your family to worship together.
- We know that there are days when your children are wiggly and distracted. We want to remind you that **this is o.k. and that all children (wiggles included) are welcome in our sanctuary.**
- We want the sanctuary to become a safe place where your children can talk to, listen to, and praise God.
- The children's ministry staff is always available to help you as you begin to teach your child the importance of worship.

Tell me... I'll forget.  
Show me... I may remember.  
Involve me and I'll understand.

# Tarrytown United Methodist Church



# We Welcome Children Here

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## Why Children In Worship

- Children in Worship learn that they belong to Jesus Christ
- They learn that they are welcome in the church community, and that they are valued as persons by God and by their church family.
- They learn the Lord's Prayer, the Doxology, the creeds, and the hymns.
- They gather many memorable experiences of Christian fellowship and community which they will draw on later for support, nurture, and familiarity.
- They learn how to praise God and how to respond to God through music and prayer.
- They hear stories from the Bible read and interpreted, and begin to see Christian worship as one place where God speaks to them.
- They hear prayers for others and know that people are lifted up in times of joy and sadness.

## Helping Children Get Ready for Worship

- Sunday morning starts on Saturday night! Lay out clothes and gather the items that needs to go to church.
- On the way to church, talk to your children about what they can expect to see and hear during the worship service. Give them some things to look for or to listen for that Sunday.
- Be sure children go the bathroom before worship begins.
- When you arrive at the sanctuary, sit as near the front as you are comfortable. Children can see and hear better, and are better able to participate in the service when they are closer to the front.
- Have your child pick up a worship folder. We offer two different age appropriate folders (pre-K & Kindergarten, or Elementary)
- Greet other children as they come in. Express your joy at having children in worship.

## Helping Children Worship

- Help young readers use hymnals and Bibles. Help them by holding a bookmark or the bulletin under the lines.
- Whisper instructions that will help them know what is happening:
  - "Now it is time to tell God that we are thankful"
  - "Now we will listen to the choir"
  - "Now it is time for the offering."
- Encourage children, especially school age children, to stand at the appropriate times in the service.
- When worship is over, praise your child:
  - "I like the way you stood for the hymns."
  - "Thank you for giving a hymnal to the family next to us."
- Avoid tired, hungry criticism and complaints on the way home. Hear what people did, enjoyed, wondered about.
- Take children's concerns and questions about church seriously. Help them understand why going to worship is important to you AND why it is important in our church family for them to be present.