

KidsWorship



@ First United Church

What is KidsWorship?

The Board of Christian Education sensed a need for a 9:30 option for children and created KidsWorship in 2007. Since our kids typically miss out on most of worship by attending Children's Learning Time, we wanted to create something that would provide a worship atmosphere for the children.

What ages can participate?

KidsWorship has been designed for children ages three through fifth grade. Younger children can receive care in the nursery during the 9:30 hour. Older kids attend youth group during this time.

Who are the leaders?

Each week, a SPACEHOLDER and a STORYTELLER are present to lead the kids in worship. The Spaceholder is present for one month at a time, providing consistency for the children. The Storytellers change each week, rotating through a team of 13 Storytellers over the course of a school year. This allows the children to interact with many different adults over the course of the year. Sam Troxal also leads music each week.

What happens each week?

- Music and Gathering: during this opening portion, kids are invited to sing, dance, and cut loose as they sing along to children's worship songs. After singing, the kids "check in" with each other, have a special time of silence, and say a sing-songy Call to Worship.
- Worship Through Word & Work: just like "adult worship" kids spend part of the worship experience learning stories and ideas about God. The leaders will tell a Bible story each week and then give the children time to reflect on it through conversation and activity. These stories are told using the Godly Play method (see www.godlyplay.org for info).

After the story, kids are invited to do individual "work." They can use the Godly Play stories or our purple response boxes to interact with God. This provides an opportunity for them to ponder God more deeply.

- Worship Through Play & the Feast: Using our bodies and having fun are great ways to worship God. Worship leaders will save plenty of time at the end of each week for play. Kids will participate in high-activity games and team-building activities. KidsWorship ends with a small feast (usually something simple like graham crackers and water – it's the presence of the children and God that make it a feast!)

9:30-10:30 a.m. • Room One • Ages 3 through Fifth Grade

Check out the website or Christian Ed brochure
for adult options during the 9:30 hour.