



WOODCLIFF
United Church

Children's Ministry

We strive to be a vibrant and caring community living our faith.

Children's Worship at Woodcliff

Our children are an important part of every service. Children's worship is offered at the same time as the adult worship service in the classrooms just off the lower hall. Our hope is that families will experience the same message in different ways and be able to discuss the theme of each week together. We are a family congregation and each member is important.

From birth to age three there is a nursery available at the back of the sanctuary. This space is a great spot for parents to participate in the service with their young children. Infant toys, rocking chairs and changing tables are available in this bright space, and the best part is you can still see and hear the service.

Children aged three years to grade six who wish to participate in Sunday School are asked to sign in at the children's table located in the sanctuary each Sunday, and start the service with their families. If you are planning your first visit to Woodcliff please take time to fill in a registration form for your child(ren) so we can learn important medical and family information, and keep them safe in our group.

About 10-15 minutes into service (after important announcements, songs and prayers) children are invited to participate in a special children's time and blessing. Then, led by our Children's Ministry Coordinator and dedicated volunteers, children go to the lower hall for their own child-centered time.

To start our time together, children participate in a large group gathering which includes a interactive introduction to the theme, offering (usually a few coins, or a coloring, or a smile, with funds collected generally shared between church expenses and outreach projects the kids help select) and a prayer. Then they break into small groups by age to explore deeper the lesson of the week. We are guided in our lessons by the Feasting on the Word curriculum, but often add songs, crafts and stories to keep the learning time even more engaging. After the service you are invited to pick up your children from the classrooms downstairs.

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
- Matthew 19:14**

Age 3 – Kindergarten

Our biggest hope for this age group is that they feel safe and happy when they come to church. We start to learn about what it means to be in community with each other through playing games, hearing stories, and other fun things like popping bubbles, doing puzzles, playing follow the leader, singing songs, and making crafts.

Grades 1 – 3

Building on the theme of community, these students go deeper into the stories of Jesus and love, beginning on a faith journey rooted in love and acceptance. These kids, led by volunteers and staff, begin experimenting with finding the scripture, role playing and more detailed responses in groups and personally through crafts, journaling and praying.

Grades 4 – 6

As children reach division two they begin to understand and question and dig deeper into the stories of the Bible. These kids have special and experienced leaders who build relationships and help the tweens stay connected to the story through making the theme relevant in their lives, asking tough questions and creating activities that keep the kids engaged and wondering.



Everyone is welcome at the table of God, and everyone is welcome to worship at Woodcliff.

A few more things you might be wondering about...

What should we wear to church?

Whatever you feel comfortable in. Some little girls always have fancy dresses and sparkly shoes on, some kids come with messy hair in PJs. We are just happy you are here! Please do note that our children's worship time might involve messy things like painting and baking, so please wear clothes that can withstand messy play.

Is there a cost?

Children's worship is funded by the ministries of Woodcliff through general offering. If you feel you would like to contribute above your regular offering, our suggested donation for the year is \$25 per family. If you are new to the church and would like to find out more about regular givings or sign up for pre-authorized remittance (PAR), please contact the Church office.

What about the other stuff?

Woodcliff is a community church. We love being together and we love to eat and share our lives outside of just Sunday mornings. Throughout the year there are amazing events we invite you to participate in, including meals, family game nights, season celebrations, babysitting nights, outings and giving back events. We also offer a one week Vacation Bible School in the summer. We would love you to be a part of this. In fact, we would love you to invite a friend along. Watch our website or sign up for newsletters for more information.

More questions?

Our Children's Ministry Coordinator would love to help answer them! Please find Sheri on a Sunday morning, give her a call at the church, or email her any time at woodcliffkids@gmail.com.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m.

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