

Kids' Church

At Robertson Wesley United Church (RW) we believe that Sunday is a time of worship for children and youth as well as for adults. Kids' Church is our way of ensuring that our children worship in ways that are relative and meaningful to them. We worship using a "rotational module" approach with games, crafts, music, puppets, drama, and a variety of other activities. We worship in our Kids' Sanctuary and in designated activity rooms.



Where is Kids' Church?

Accessed through the Memorial Hall entrance, Kids' Church is downstairs along the main hallway. One of the rooms is our Kids' Sanctuary - sacred space geared for children with its own communion table, pulpit and baptismal font. These elements echo those in the main sanctuary. Here children worship playfully on their terms. There are also rooms designated for a variety of activities, for example, ARTS and CRAFTS, GAMES, STORYTELLING and SCIENCE/COOKING.

What is a rotational module?

Each three week time period we have a THEME based on a particular bible reading and activities to demonstrate the theme. The activities function as the sermon in a traditional worship service. Divided into age groups, the children rotate through each area over the three week period.

The activities in each area are geared toward the age group involved.

The age categories are:

Primary (Kindergarten to Gr. 2);

Intermediate (Gr. 3 and Gr. 4); Junior Youth (Gr. 5 and Gr. 6).

Junior Youth meet one Friday per month for a variety of fun activities.

What about younger children?

We have a toddler program for children aged 2 ½ to 4 years. Rather than rotate to various activities, these children worship in their own room. Parents/caregivers are free to stay with their little ones if they wish.

We also have designated quiet zones in the chapel so that parents/caregivers can worship with our youngest members while still giving them a place to play (or sleep). There is a nursing area at the back of the chapel.



If you'd prefer to leave those younger than 2 1/2 in the supervision of a trained caregiver, you are free to do so. They will be looked after in the same area as the pre-kindergarten children.

Who leads Kids' Church?

We have a shared approach to leadership, including:

our *Minister* of Congregational Care; *Teachers*, who are parents, grandparents, youth and congregation members volunteering to lead a rotation; *Shepherds*, who are parents, grandparents, youth and other volunteers assigned to an age group and who accompany them to the activity sessions. Shepherds also help the teacher in the session and build a rapport with the students.

Is there Kids' Church every Sunday?

Yes and No. Yes, because every Sunday is geared toward children and youth, as well as adults; but on a long weekend, a school holiday, or the summer months, there are no planned activities. Children are welcome to stay in the main sanctuary with their parents or caregivers. On these Sundays special care is taken to make the worship accessible to young and old alike. There are also activity kits available for children who need extra help to stay focused during worship.

There are also several Sundays during the year when the service is designated as a “Whole Family Service.” This is an intergenerational service where leadership is exercised by children, youth, adults and elders.

Do the children go directly down to the activity rooms in the basement?

Not usually. Worship begins in the sanctuary with families together. Early in the service there is a special time of prayer with the children before they go downstairs for their activities.

In the Kids’ Sanctuary they will learn a song, listen to the reading, and then go to their activity room.



After the “sermon activity”, they will regroup in the Kids’ Sanctuary for prayer, a time to make their offering (all proceeds go to the Mission and Service Fund). Afterwards they will reintegrate with the congregation upstairs so that we can be sent out into the world as a whole family. Kids’ church is intended to feel like worship. It is simply geared to their age level.

Note that on Communion Sundays, on Remembrance Sunday, and when there is a special “Group Worship” the

children GO DIRECTLY to the Kids’ Sanctuary rather than starting upstairs.

Do the children always separate into different age groups?

No. In addition to the various rotations, the children get together a few times a year for worship with the Youth Group. These “Group Worship” times coincide with special Church holidays like “Reign of Christ Sunday” or “Epiphany.”



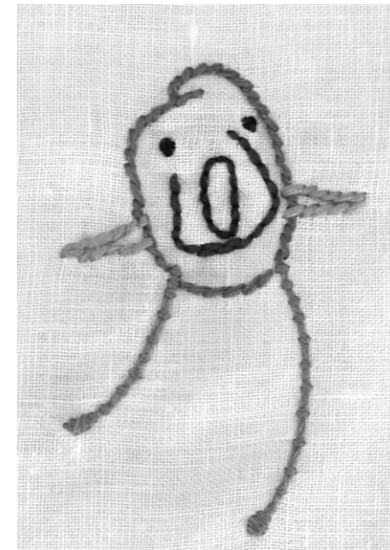
In addition, some Communion Sundays we celebrate “Kids’ Communion.” Rather than go upstairs for communion, the children and youth get together on their own for communion geared to their age level. “Group Worship” and “Kid’s Communion” are celebrated in the Kids’ Sanctuary.

Is Kids’ Church just for kids?

Definitely not. All ages are welcome to participate with the children in Kids’ Church, especially parents, older siblings, grandparents and other caregivers. All are welcome.

For more information contact James at 482-1587 or by email: jravenscroft@rwuc.org.

KIDS at Robertson- Wesley



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