

Kids' Church

At Robertson-Wesley United Church (R-W) we believe that Sunday is a time of worship for children as well as for youth and adults. Kids' Church is our way of ensuring that our children worship in ways that are relevant and meaningful to them.

Where is Kids' Church?

Accessed through the Memorial Hall entrance, Kids' Church is downstairs along the main hallway. The first room to the left is the air room where we gather together to begin our time together.

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 long weekends, school holidays, or the summer months, there are often no planned activities. Children are welcome to stay in the main sanctuary with their parents or caregivers where activity books are available in the chapel. On these Sundays special care is taken to make worship accessible to young and old alike.

There are several Sundays during the year when worship is designated as a "Whole Family Worship." This is an experiential multigenerational service where all ages are engaged in worship together.

Is Kids' Church just for kids?

Definitely not! All ages are welcome to participate with the children in Kids' Church, especially parents, grandparents and other caregivers or people who simply enjoy being with the children. All are welcome.

What curriculum do we use?

The curriculum is theme based. The children will engage biblical stories being explored in worship using various activities ranging from drama, art, music, games, science, food preparation, storytelling, etc. With the biblical story being told and explored each week, the children get to know the stories well. The themes change from year to year. Children generally are kept together as a large group depending on how many children are present that Sunday.

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

Not usually. Children begin in the main sanctuary with their parents or caregivers.

Early in the service there is a special time with the children called "Coming into God's Presence". This is an all ages exploration time with each other and God. The children are then invited to follow the leaders to their rooms downstairs. On Sundays when we have communion, the children will come back up stairs to join their families.



What about younger children?

We have a toddler program for children aged 3 to 5 years, called "The Garden Patch." The Garden Patch room is also located in the basement of the church to the left of the stairs and the elevator. Parents/caregivers are free to stay with their little ones if they wish and the service can be heard from this room. Parents are free to bring those younger than 30 months to "The Garden Patch," but we ask that you stay with your child until they are out of diapers.

We also have designated child-friendly areas in the chapel so that parents/caregivers can worship with our youngest members while still giving them a place to play (or sleep) with puzzles, books, blocks, and stuffed animals. There is a nursing room (The Millson Room) adjacent to the chapel equipped with a rocking chair.



Sunday Morning Youth Discussion Group

On Sundays, youth Grade 7 and up meet downstairs at 10:30 AM in the youth room for worship where we explore the message of Jesus and our faith in engaging ways. Newcomers and visiting youth are welcome to take part.

Youth Group

Youth also get together for a variety of activities, fun and fellowship. Youth from Grades 7 to 12 meet twice a month usually on Saturday evenings. On occasion there are Presbytery wide events that include United Church youth from across Edmonton. A full list of events is available upon request.

Confirmation

As part of the United Church of Canada, at R-W we offer baptism to adults and infants alike. Baptism is a sacrament by which someone is received into the fellowship of the church. While we do baptize older children and adults, quite often, people are baptized as infants or young children. When this is the case, our parents have made a faith commitment on our behalf. Thus when we are older, we make our own commitment as followers of Jesus by being confirmed. Confirmation is a time when we publicly declare our desire to live in Christ and practice our faith within the life and fellowship of the church. Confirmation brings full membership in the local congregation. This means that youth who have been confirmed have the same right and responsibility to vote as any other member of R-W.

Youth & Young Adults

Sometimes you hear the statement, “Young people are the future.” At Robertson-Wesley, we say, “Young people are the present”, because youth and young adults are as much a part of the congregation as older adults and seniors. Every age group is important and welcome to participate fully in the congregation.



Who leads Kids' Church, Garden Patch and Youth Programs?

We have a shared approach to leadership, including:

Our *Minister* of Congregation and Community Development coordinates and develops, and creates curriculum for these programs. Our Minister takes various leadership roles in the program.

Kids' Church and Garden Patch Leaders:

We invite parents, grandparents, youth and congregation members to sign up as a volunteer to lead or help with any number of weeks. We have a few dedicated leaders who are the primary lead for the whole year in Kids' Church.

Helpers are parents, grandparents, youth and congregational members who assist the leader and minister with the various activities.

Youth Leaders Team:

We strive to have 3-4 youth leaders who consistently lead the Youth Discussion Group and to coordinate youth group activities with the Minister of Congregation and Community Development.



For more information, contact:

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Family Ministry



Children, Youth, and Families

Inclusive of All Ages

Every generation is valued in our community. We strive to reflect this in our life together as children, youth, young adults, adults and elders. We provide specific programming and all age events for children, youth, young adults and family at the church to facilitate learning, fellowship and pastoral care.

As a church we want our youngest to feel and know that their participation in the life and work of the church is essential and feel that this is their church. We trust that families will choose for themselves what works best for their children and youth. If your child enjoys staying in worship with you that is great. If your child wants you to be with them in Kids' Church, then sign up as a helper. If your child wiggles, dances, or is upset in worship, do not fret. Take care of your needs. We all learn in different ways and at our own pace.

Messy Wednesday

Families with children are invited to gather in Memorial Hall between 5-7pm for a meal, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. There are activities for children and an opportunity for parents to converse with each other. The food is provided by the Helen Mack Fund and it is open to families in the community. This program begins in Sept and ends in April.

Mom's and Dad's Group

This group meets twice a month usually on a Monday morning for a few hours. It is an informal drop in group for parents and their babies and toddlers. It is an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents, for the children to play, and for all of us to explore our spirituality and the joys and frustrations of parenting.