

## 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. We worship using a "rotational module" approach with a variety of activities. We worship in designated activity rooms downstairs in the church after a short time in worship with the adults upstairs. With an eye to the created world, all the rooms are decorated to acknowledge the elements of fire, air, water and earth.

## 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 worship.

## What is a rotational module?

The curriculum is theme based. Over a number of weeks the children will engage a biblical story using various activities ranging from drama, art, music, games, science, food preparation, storytelling, etc. With the biblical story being told each week, the children get to know the stories really 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.



## What about younger children?

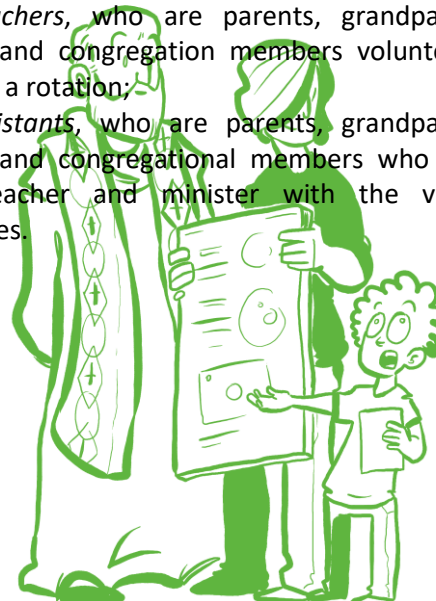
We have a toddler program for children aged 3 to 5 years. The children sometimes start with the large group for a time of prayer and thanksgiving and then move to their own room called "The Garden Patch." The Garden Patch is also located in the basement of the church to the left of the stairs and the 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.

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). There is a nursing room (The Millson Room) adjacent to the chapel equipped with a rocking chair, nursing pillow, and the like.

## Who leads Kids' Church?

We have a shared approach to leadership, including:

1. Our *Minister* of Congregation and Community Development;
2. *Teachers*, who are parents, grandparents, youth and congregation members volunteering to lead a rotation;
3. *Assistants*, who are parents, grandparents, youth and congregational members who assist the teacher and minister with the various activities.



## Is there Kids' Church every Sunday?

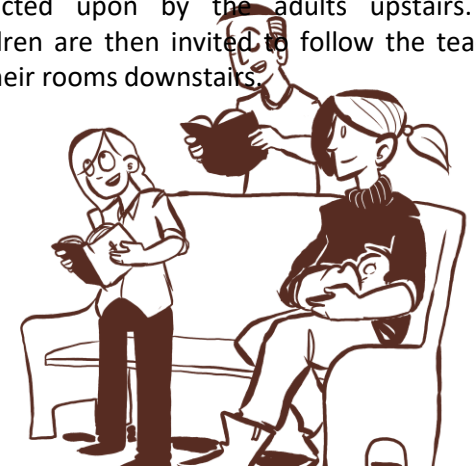
Yes and No. Yes, because every Sunday is geared toward children and youth as well as adults; but on long weekends, school holidays, or the summer months, there are often no planned activities. Children are welcome to stay in the main sanctuary with their parents or caregivers and there are activity books available that are associated with the worship themes. On these Sundays special care is taken to make worship accessible to young and old alike.

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

## 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 when an adult, often one of our ministers, takes time to share with the children and make a connection between the theme they will be exploring downstairs with the readings being reflected upon by the adults upstairs. The children are then invited to follow the teachers to their rooms downstairs.



## 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 or people who simply enjoy being with the children. All are welcome.

## Messy Wednesday

This is a new program that has started for families with children. On the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, families are invited to gather in Memorial Hall between 5-7pm for a meal. The families prepare the meal together; there are activities for children and an opportunity for parents to talk with other adults. The food is provided by the Helen Mack Fund and it is open to families in the community. Check with the Congregation and Community Development Minister to see where you can participate.

## Mom's Group

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

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