

# Welcome to Fourth

## \* Children's Ministry 2025/2026 \*

Enclosed is information about our ministry that we hope you'll find helpful:

- **Our teachers and curriculum**, pages 2-4
- **Information on first time registering and weekly ways to “check in,”** page 5
- **Cherub and Children’s Churches**, pages 6-7
- **Sunday School Gatherings**, pages 8-9
- **Ways to Serve**, page 10
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None of this happens without God’s people hearing His call to serve and faithfully following it. We give thanks for the many members of Fourth who joyfully serve our children. What is it that energizes us to serve in this ministry when there are so many other good places to serve?

### Psalm 78

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done....so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

We long for your children to have a deep foundation in Scripture, a clear understanding of the gospel, and a love for God’s people here at Fourth, along with an awareness of his work in the world. Our prayer is that they will love and serve him all their days.

Please know that whether your family has worshiped at Fourth for generations or you are brand new, we see each child as divinely sent to us for this time—to love, protect, teach, and simply enjoy.

If there is any way we can help you, or if you have questions about this ministry or about Fourth, please don’t hesitate to ask.

With joy,



Jen Smedley  
Interim Director of Children’s Ministry



Elisabeth Han  
Children’s Ministry Assisant



**WELCOME TO OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

# NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

2025-2026

## Infants/Crawlers/Toddlers

**Caregivers:** Aly Bordon, Claudia Bordon, Paula Burris, Marlin Dominguez, Christine Ekanayake

Nursery for infants and toddlers is provided at 8, 9:30, & 11



**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEET AT 9:30**



when he/she turns 3 and is potty-trained

### Fall / God's Family

Beginning the line of promise - Adam through Joseph

### Winter / God's Son

The birth and stories of Jesus, God's Son, in the New Testament

### Spring / God's Love

Jesus' life, death and resurrection and our need to trust him

### Summer/God's People

God's guidance and deliverance of his people in the Old Testament

### Teachers/Leaders

Nancy Price

Claudia Bordon



born before 9/1/21

### Fall / God Leads His People

God's thrilling rescue of Israel from Egypt & Christ in the Old Testament

### Winter / Living in God's Family

Being a part of God's family and living as God's child

### Spring / Jesus is God

Encountering Jesus through his powerful signs and wonders

### Summer/Serving the Savior

Learning to trust and obey Jesus through New Testament Lessons

### Teachers/Leaders

Hannah Smedley

Aruni Warnakula



**Fall / God Created All Things**

Discover the Creator through his Word and his creation

**Winter / Jesus is God's Son**

Follow Jesus from the manger to the Mount of Transfiguration

**Spring / Jesus is the Savior**

Learn that Jesus was sent because of God's great love

**Summer/God Keeps His Promises**

Learn about God through his faithfulness to his Old Testament people

**Teachers/Leaders**

Melissa Rogers

Kelly Chase



**Fall / Obeying God**

Stories about the Old Testament prophets and kings

**Winter / Knowing Jesus**

Getting to know Jesus through stories from the Gospels

**Spring / Serving God**

Bible men and women who served God faithfully

**Summer/Pleasing God**

The Ten Commandments: growth in Christian Character

**Teachers/Leaders**

Jen Ward

Susan Jansen

Sarah Rogers



**Fall / Living Together**

God and his people; stories from Genesis

**Winter / Loving Jesus**

Loving the promise of the Savior; meeting him and responding to him

**Spring / Studying God's Word**

The Bible as God's Word; its place in our lives

**Summer/Growing in God**

Learning with the Israelites about trusting and obeying God

**Teachers/Leaders**

Asriel Greendyk

Rebecca Smith

**3rd  
grade**

**Fall / God's Grace in the Law**

Applying the Ten Commandments - A study in Exodus

**Winter / Listening to Jesus**

The teaching of Jesus from the Gospels

**Spring / Telling Others**

Learning about the early Church - Stories from Acts

**Summer/Trusting God**

Finding out the greatness and goodness of the heavenly Father

**Teachers/Leaders**

Michael O'Halloran

Lauren Reed

**4th  
grade**

**Fall / Genesis**

Creation, the fall, the flood, the Abrahamic covenant, the patriarchs, & Joseph

**Winter / Exodus to Ruth**

The redemptive acts of God in dealing with his covenant people

**Spring / 1 Samuel to Esther**

Reigns of the kings of Israel & Judah, captivity in Babylon & returned exiles

**Summer/Job to Malachi**

Songs, proverbs, and prophets

**Teachers/Leaders**

Carol Jackson

Dave Nicholson

**5th  
grade**

**Fall / Matthew to John**

The life, work, and teachings of Christ in the gospels

**Winter / Acts to Romans**

The growth of the early church and the doctrines of our faith

**Spring / 1 Corinthians to Philemon**

Instructions for Christian living in the Church

**Summer/Hebrews to Revelation**

Christ the Messiah, King of Kings, and Judge of the universe

**Teachers/Leaders**

Jen & Wayne Chen

AB & Rob Dickinson

**Important Reminder:** Sunday School classrooms open at 9:15 and Cherub Church opens at 10:50. Please allow volunteers and teachers transition time and do not drop off your child(ren) before those times. We also encourage you to pick them up as soon as Sunday School and the Worship service ends.

# Registering Children New to Fourth & The Check-In System for Registered Children

Your children's safety is of the utmost importance to us. Because of this, all children up to and including 5th grade must be checked in and, after Sunday School or Children's Church, picked up by a parent or guardian with a parent/guardian receipt in hand. (Children cannot be released to anyone under the age of 18, even if they have the parent receipt in their possession.)

The following is the check-in process:

## **If you have never registered your child:**

- Please stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a registration form, fill it out, and give it to a volunteer. (Forms can also be found in each classroom, so if you didn't register before reaching the classroom, you can do so there.) Upon receiving your completed registration form, the church will enter your child into the system. If you'd like to fill out the registration form prior to coming to church, forms are available on our website under the Children's Ministry tab.
- After completing the registration form, fill out a two-piece name tag: one piece for the child to wear on the front of his or her clothing, and one parent/guardian receipt for you to keep.
- You will need to bring the parent/guardian receipt to your child's classroom and present it to the teacher before leaving with your child.

## **Check-in process after you've registered your child:**

- You will find check-in computers in one of two locations:
  - By the Children's Welcome Center on the first floor
  - By the Children's Library on the second floor
- Touch the screen and enter your phone number or last name. A name tag and a parent/guardian receipt will print. (We do our best to have volunteers available at these stations to assist you.)



# **CHERUB CHURCH AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**Every Sunday during the 8:00 & 11:00 Worship Services**



Every Sunday morning, during both worship services, Fourth's Children's Churches meet. The following is an explanation of each age group and the specifics regarding each service.

## **Cherub Church**

Boys and girls are invited to attend Cherub Church if they:

- Have celebrated their third birthday through Pre-K
- Are potty-trained
- Are able to say goodbye to mom and dad easily (or relatively easily!)
- Are able to sit still for a 15-20 minute interactive Bible lesson (or almost still)

## **Children's Church**

Children in Kindergarten through third grade are invited to attend Children's Church. This is the venue where we teach the Apostles' Creed, sing the Hymn of the Month, and pray for global missionaries and community ministries our church supports. We also do our best to prepare lessons that align with the sermon being preached. Our intention is that your children will be able to join you in a discussion about what you have both learned that day.

We prepare a Parents' Page explaining the morning, with "Questions for the Car" designed to aid conversation with your children.

## **8:00 a.m. Worship Service**

During the 8:00 service, all children ages three (potty-trained) through third grade attend the worship service with their parents until they are dismissed before the sermon. Leaders then escort the children from the sanctuary to their respective classrooms, where they remain until pick-up.

## **11:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Cherubs begin in their classroom at 10:50 a.m. At 11:05 a.m., teachers take them to the Children's Church room for an abbreviated Children's Church session, which includes age-appropriate worship songs, fingerplays, and a Bible lesson aligned with the sermon. They then return to their classroom, where they complete a simple craft reinforcing the lesson and play until pick-up.

Children in Kindergarten through third grade attend the worship service with their parents until dismissed just before the sermon. Leaders escort the children from the sanctuary to the Children's Church room, where they remain until parents pick them up immediately after the worship service. If you prefer for your children to remain in the sanctuary during the entire worship service, regardless of age, please know they are always welcome.



## **Cherub Church & Children's Church Leaders**

**8:00**

**Children's Church**

Hannah & David Falcone  
Annaliese Pappas  
Tony Parker  
Hannah Smedley  
Morgen Smith  
Nancy White  
Jen Smedley

**Cherub Church**

Katy Mayer  
Skyla Seybert

**11:00**

**Children's Church**

Jean Bronson  
Matt Bettridge  
Kato Gilbert  
Elisabeth Han  
Mary Wagner

**Cherub Church**

Jean Bronson  
Garrie Barnes  
Christine Ekanayke



# Sunday School Gatherings

Every Sunday our Sunday School classes will “gather” together at two times:

**9:30-9:45**

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders

**9:50-10:05**

3s, PK, K, 1st, and 2nd graders

During those 15 minutes, the children will sing the Hymn of the Month and learn the catechism. Many thanks to the catechism team for leading this large group of children and for their creativity and devotion.

## Why Sing a Hymn of the Month?

Our church loves to sing hymns, and we want to teach our children the rich hymns of the faith! In an effort to “guard” these great hymns, we have compiled a list of hymns to teach in a three-year cycle. Ranging from very old to modern, these doctrinally rich, gospel-centered, God-exalting hymns are ones we want our children to learn and sing for years to come. In September, we will be singing “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.”

On the following page are the hymns we hope to include in the three-year cycle.

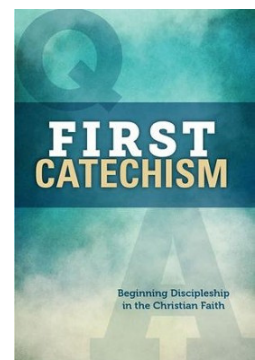
Last year, we began something we hope to continue—the annual **Songfest**, which is an extended Gathering where all the children come together to sing a single verse of each of the nine hymns they learned and discussed throughout the year. This year’s **Songfest** will be held on May 10th.

## Why Teach the Catechism?

Simply put, the catechism is a series of questions and answers used to teach basic Bible truths—the compilation of the approximately 750,000 words found in the Bible in the pew rack in our sanctuary.

Catechism Question 1 reads, “Who made you?” with the answer, “God.” The final question, Question 150, asks, “What will the new heaven and the new earth be like?” The answer: “A glorious and happy place where the saved will be with Jesus forever.” Between those two questions—1 and 150—rest the beautiful truths of the gospel.

Each Sunday School class has copies of the catechism we will be using. If your child doesn’t have one, we have a copy waiting for you!



# Hymns of the Month

## Year 1 / 2025-2026

September	My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
October	Holy, Holy, Holy
November	Amazing Grace
December	Joy to the World
January	Come Thou Fount
February	Take My Life and Let It Be
March	The Power of the Cross
April	Crown Him with Many Crowns
May	Be Thou My Vision
June	Rock of Ages
July	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
August	Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

## Year 2 / 2026-2027

September	The Church's One Foundation
October	Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven
November	Now Thank We All Our God
December	Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
January	May the Mind of Christ My Savior
February	In Christ Alone
March	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
April	How Firm a Foundation
May	All Creatures of Our God and King
June	Come Christians, Join to Sing
July	Speak, O Lord
August	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

## Year 3 / 2027-2028

September	To God Be the Glory
October	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
November	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
December	O Come All Ye Faithful
January	Jesus Shall Reign
February	Marvelous Grace
March	Lead On, O King Eternal
April	Hallelujah! What a Savior
May	Rejoice the Lord is King
June	Fairest Lord Jesus
July	All for Jesus (Wycliff)
August	'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

# WAYS TO SERVE

## FOR THE CHILDREN

### **The Usher/Greeter Team**

As you approach the sanctuary from the narthex, you have probably been greeted and handed a bulletin by one of the children serving on our Usher/Greeter Team.

The team is made up of second through fifth-grade children who, along with one parent, arrive 15 minutes before the 8:00 or 11:00 worship service begins. Each child takes his or her “post,” bulletin in hand, with a parent standing nearby.

From the children’s perspective, we believe this is a wonderful way for them to serve the Lord in His house on His very special day. From the perspective of the adults being served, we hope it brings joy to be greeted by a serious—but smiling—child who looks them in the eye and offers a warm welcome.

If you would like your child to participate, please contact Jen Smedley to schedule a 10-minute Zoom conversation to review the “job description.” The commitment is approximately once every six weeks, depending on the number of children who wish to serve, and lasts for one year. You will be able to sign up through SignUpGenius, making it easy to let us know when your child is available to serve.

## FOR THE PARENTS

We are intentional about not asking parents to serve in the nursery or in any of our Sunday School or Children’s Church classes on a rotating basis on Sunday mornings. When you come to church, our hope is that you will be able to attend worship and a Sunday School class, knowing your children are safe, happy, and learning in the care of trained men and women who feel called to serve weekly in Children’s Ministry.

We recognize that, in keeping with our Child Protection Policy (two unmarried adults in each room with children at all times), there may be occasions when we need to ask for your help on Sunday mornings. Even so, our hope is that your Sundays remain “free,” allowing you to attend an adult Sunday School class, spend time chatting with friends—new and old—and, of course, participate in worship without being called upon to serve in Children’s Ministry.

That said, if you would like to help, please know we would love to have you. Whether it’s teaching weekly, serving in the nursery on occasion, helping set up for the Family Advent Party, or manning the Hot Chocolate Bar when it’s time to pick up an Advent wreath, our desire is for you to serve somewhere at Fourth where you want to serve, doing something you enjoy.

Recently, we began TeamSOS, a listserv of sorts that sends a midweek email outlining our needs for the upcoming Sunday. If you are someone who would like to serve in Children’s Ministry “on occasion,” please let us know and we will add you to the list. You will then receive a weekly email with a link where you can view available opportunities and choose a place to serve.



# THE MEMORY ZONE

## Our Scripture Memory Program

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The English Standard Version (ESV) is the translation of the Bible that we use at Fourth. It translates Psalm 119:11 like this: “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” Many of us know the verse as, “I have hidden your word in my heart.” We prefer “stored up.” It reflects what we are aiming to do with Fourth’s memory program, The Memory Zone—verse after verse, year after year, storing up God’s Word in the little minds and hearts of the children God sends our way.

To help us in this endeavor, The Memory Zone will open on October 5. Parents are invited to bring their children between 9:15–9:30 a.m. and 10:35–10:50 a.m., where volunteer monitors will be waiting to listen to the verses children have memorized. If a child recites a verse successfully, he or she will receive a prize, with the size and value of the prize determined by the length and complexity of the verse.

Attached are thirty verses that we have identified as some of the most foundational in our faith. We invite you to choose any of these verses and learn them as a family. It is not necessary for your child to memorize the verses in order. In the past, we have not required memorizing the references along with the verses, but this year we are encouraging families to include the references as well.

The Sunday School curriculum we use also includes memory verses, which your children will bring home on papers from class. Sunday School teachers will discuss these verses as part of their lessons. The challenge is that each class has a different verse, which can make it difficult for families to learn them together. We thought it would be easier if a family memorized one verse per week together, rather than trying to memorize several different ones.

Except for holidays, The Memory Zone will be open every Sunday from October 5 through May 3, then closed for the summer. It will also be closed during special children’s events. This schedule provides about thirty verses for thirty weeks! On May 17, children who have memorized a minimum of eight verses will receive a certificate of recognition, presented during that day’s Gathering.

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to memorize God’s Word alongside your children. We are never too old to memorize Scripture—it just seems to come more easily for the young, and we intend to take advantage of that!

# THE MEMORY VERSES / year 1 of a 3-year cycle

## October 5, 2025 – May 3, 2026



### **Genesis 1:1**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

### **Psalms 51:10**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

### **Psalms 103:12**

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

### **Psalms 119:105**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

### **Lamentations 3:22-23**

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

### **Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### **Matthew 11:28**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

### **Luke 10:27**

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### **John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

### **John 14:2-3**

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

### **Romans 3:2**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### **Romans 5:8**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Romans 10:9**

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol; against such things there is no law.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Philippians 1:6**

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

**James 1:19**

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

  
**4TH KIDS @ FOURTH NIGHT**  


We're excited and thankful! This year, Fourth Night begins Wednesday, September 17. If you're new to Fourth Night, it's a delightful midweek opportunity where families can spend an hour or so around a table, enjoying friends over a delicious meal. After dinner, there are classes for adults, while the children head to the children's wing for games, coloring and crafts, a story corner for the little ones, and other age-appropriate activities that are just plain fun.

Dinner begins in the Upper Room at 5:30 p.m. At 6:45, parents drop off their children in classrooms.

If your children attend Fourth Night, we will ask you to take a turn a couple of times over the school year to help oversee the rooms. This doesn't mean teaching a lesson. Considering the time of day and that it's midweek, children will have time to just have fun, but we do need "overseers."

If, however, you already teach or help in Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings, you are exempt—actually, not allowed(!)—to help on Wednesday nights. Let Fourth Night be your opportunity to attend a class, socialize with friends, or spend some quiet time in the library.

# **IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES 2025/2026**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025**  
**PROMOTION SUNDAY - EVERYONE MOVES UP TO THE NEXT GRADE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**  
**OUR FIRST "DONUT SUNDAY" WHICH WILL BE  
FOLLOWED EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**  
**4TH KIDS AT FOURTH NIGHT BEGINS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025**  
**MEMORY ZONE OPENS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025**  
**2ND GRADE RECEPTION IN THE CLASSROOM FOLLOWED BY  
BIBLE PRESENTATION DURING THE 11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025**  
**ADVENT WREATH PICK-UP AND HOT CHOCOLATE BAR**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025**  
**FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 14, 21, & 28, 2025**  
**NO ADULT OR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**MARCH 20-25, 2026**  
**MISSIONS WEEK**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026**  
**PALM SUNDAY PALM PROCESSIONAL AT THE 8:00 & 11:00 WORSHIP SERVICES**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**  
**EASTER SUNDAY - NO ADULT OR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026**  
**MEMORY ZONE CLOSES**

**SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026**  
**SONGFEST DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERINGS**

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**  
**MEMORY ZONE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION DURING THE GATHERINGS  
5TH GRADERS' LAST SUNDAY IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, HEADING ON TO "YOUTH"**

**JULY 6-10, 2026**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**  
**FAREWELL TO RISING 4TH-GRADERS AS THEY DEPART  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH TO REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY WITH THEIR PARENTS**

# OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

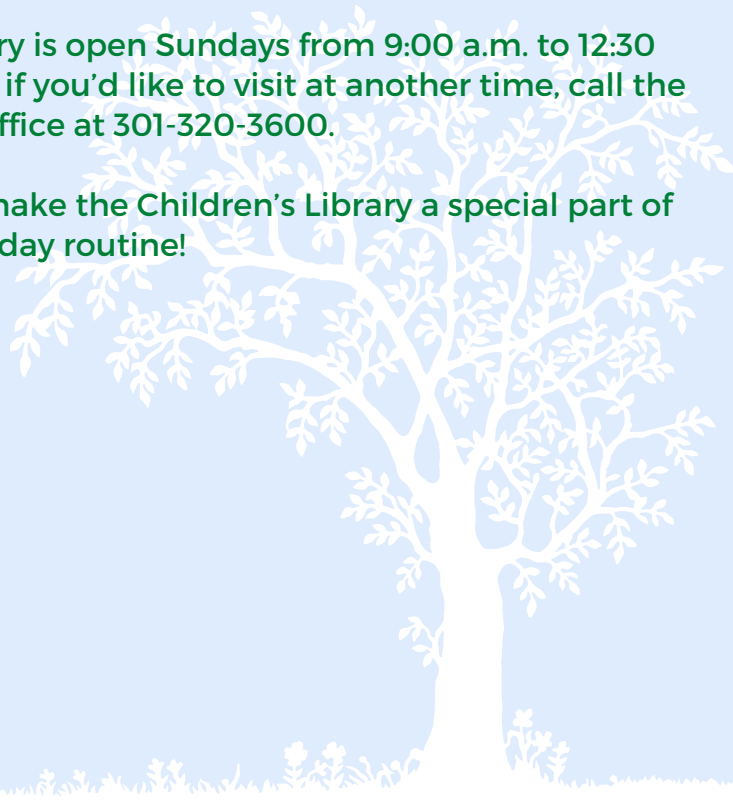
## A HIDDEN TREASURE

Ever visit our Children's Library? Sunday mornings between Sunday School and worship are the very best time—a colorful, welcoming, and fun hangout for kids and families.

We've got over 3,000 items to explore, from board books for the littlest ones to fun fiction and helpful parenting books. You'll also find biographies, audiobooks, and movies for children of all ages.

The library is open Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., but if you'd like to visit at another time, call the church office at 301-320-3600.

Plan to make the Children's Library a special part of your Sunday routine!



## Keeping Our Children Safe

Our church has a **Safety and Protection Team** that works closely with Children's Ministry. The verse they repeat often is: "And we prayed to our God and set a guard as protection" (Nehemiah 4:9). This reminds us that we call out to the Lord for His protection while doing everything we can to ensure safety.

All of our volunteers have undergone a **Criminal Records Check** and have read and signed a detailed policy. We also have strict guidelines in place—no one may be in a classroom alone, children are escorted to the restroom, pick-up requires a tag, and other safety measures we've mentioned.

We realize that leaving your child can sometimes be difficult, but we must hold to the rule that no one without a Criminal Records Check may enter the classroom. From experience, we've learned it is best for parents to leave an unhappy child as soon as possible; time spent in the classroom with your child usually does not make separation easier. We ask that you hand your little boy or girl to us at the door and say goodbye. We will do our best to settle them, and if we are unable, we promise to contact you after 10–15 minutes. (Please silence your phone in the Sanctuary or Adult Sunday School rooms, but keep it nearby so you can receive a text if needed.)

Our volunteers have also been trained to respond to concerns such as a stranger in the building or a fire. While these topics can be difficult to discuss, we want parents to know that we have made plans and informed all volunteers. If it is ever necessary to evacuate the building, there is no need for parents to rush to the classroom—teachers and leaders have been trained, and your child will be safely under their care.

## Keeping Our Children Healthy

If we have any concerns that a child is sick, a parent will be contacted. This includes symptoms such as a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, colored runny nose, persistent cough, eye discharge, or an unexplained rash. We ask that if a child exhibits any of these symptoms within 24 hours of a church event, he or she remain at home.

There may be times when we contact a parent unnecessarily, and we ask for your understanding. We believe it is better to err on the side of caution—calling a parent when it might not have been strictly necessary—rather than risk exposing a classroom of children to illness.

The only snacks children receive on Sunday mornings are graham crackers and water during the 9:30 Sunday School hour. On the first Sunday of the month, we serve a donut (purchased from Dunkin' Donuts). At the conclusion of Children's Church, children may receive up to three Starbursts when playing a game reviewing words or terms from the lesson. At The Memory Zone, they receive one Starburst for reciting—or even attempting to recite—a verse. Please let us know if your child has allergies or if you would like to provide alternative snacks.

If you choose to supply snacks for your child, please do not include anything that contains peanuts or tree nuts. Other children attending may have allergies, and almost every week we have a visitor or two, so we need to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

If you have any other questions about safety, please don't hesitate to contact the Children's Ministry.