

Welcome to Fourth

* Children's Ministry 2026/2027 *

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
- Sunday School Gatherings, pages 7-8
- Ways to Serve, page 9
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- The Children’s Library, page 15
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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.

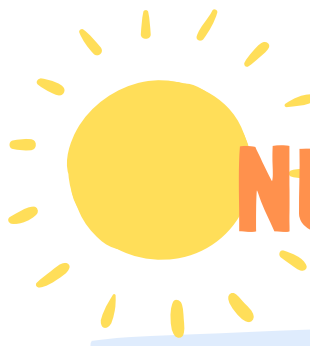
If there is any way we can help you, or if you have questions about this ministry or about Fourth, please don’t hesitate to ask.

With joy,

Genna Reeder
Director of Children’s Ministry

Elisabeth Han
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Jen Smedley
Interim Children’s Church Lead



WELCOME TO OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

2026-2027

Infants/Crawlers/Toddlers

Birth to Confident Walkers: Room 133

Confident Walkers to Age 3: Room 110

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



born before
9/1/22

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



K

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



1st
grade

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



2nd
grade

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

**3rd
grade** &

**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

**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

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.

8:00 a.m. Worship Service / Combined Cherub Church and Children's Church

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 classroom, where they remain until pick-up.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service / Cherub Church and Children's Church

At the beginning of the hour, Cherubs are taught an abbreviated Children's Church lesson, which includes age-appropriate worship songs and a Bible lesson aligned with the sermon. The children also complete a simple craft reinforcing the lesson and then 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

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. During this time, we recite the Apostles' Creed, sing the Hymn of the Month, and pray for global missionaries and community ministries our church supports. A Bible lesson is taught based on the sermon text being preached in the worship service. 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.

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 “The Church’s One Foundation.”

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

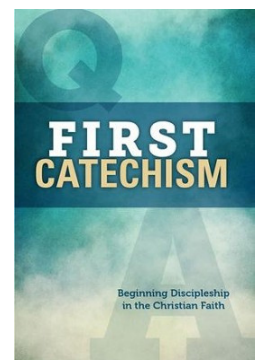
Last year, we began something we hope to continue—the annual **Songfest**, which is an extended Gathering where all the children come together to sing a single verse of each of the nine hymns they learned and discussed throughout the year. This year’s **Songfest** will be held on May 9th.

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 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

Year 1 / 2028-2029

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

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 Genna Reeder 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, or helping set up for the Family Advent Party, our desire is for you to serve somewhere at Fourth where you want to serve, doing something you enjoy.

TeamSOS is 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



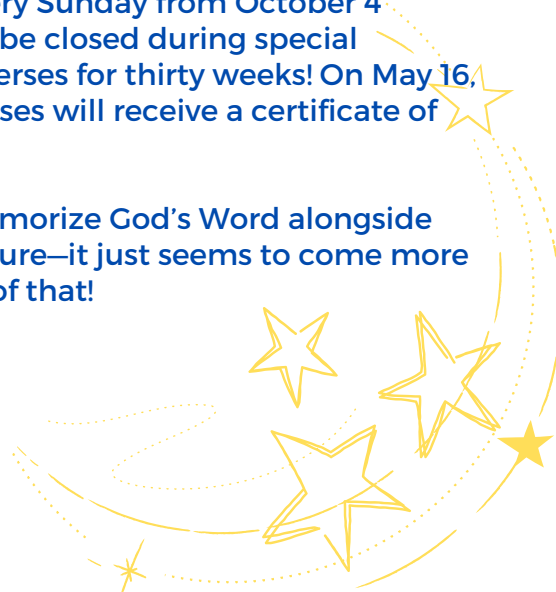
The English Standard Version (ESV) is the translation of the Bible that we use at Fourth. It translates Psalm 119:11 like this: “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” Many of us know the verse as, “I have hidden your word in my heart.” We prefer “stored up.” It reflects 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 4. 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 4 through May 2, 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 16, 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 2 of a 3-year cycle

October 4, 2026 – May 2, 2027



Acts 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself

Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 3:2-3

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven

Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Hebrews 4: 15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments

Luke 2:10-12

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 6:31

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Philippians 2:6-7

though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Psalms 139:2-4

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Psalms 139:9-10

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Psalms 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Revelation 1:8

I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 13:13

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 Peter 5:7

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



THE KIDS @ FOURTH NIGHT



This year, Fourth Night begins Wednesday, September 16. 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 **Scripture memory-based games and activities that reinforce and encourage children in memorizing the Memory Zone verses for the year.**

Dinner begins in the Upper Room at 5:45 p.m. and the children's program runs from 6:45-7:30. Parents need to check in their children using a check-in computer.

IMPORTANT DATES 2026/2027

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
PROMOTION SUNDAY - EVERYONE MOVES UP TO THE NEXT GRADE

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 23 & 30, 2026
PARENT COFFEES DURING 9:30 HOUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
**OUR FIRST "DONUT SUNDAY" WHICH WILL BE
FOLLOWED EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 16 - NOVEMBER 4, 2026
4TH KIDS AT FOURTH NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026
MEMORY ZONE OPENS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026
2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION (11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE) & RECEPTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026
ADVENT WREATH PICK-UP AND COOKIE STATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026
FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 13, 20, & 27, 2026
NO ADULT OR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2026
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 20 - MARCH 10, 2027
4TH KIDS AT FOURTH NIGHT

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2027
PALM SUNDAY PALM PROCESSIONAL AT THE 8:00 & 11:00 WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2027
EASTER SUNDAY - NO ADULT OR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

APRIL 9-14, 2027
MISSIONS WEEK

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2027
MEMORY ZONE CLOSES

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2027
SONGFEST DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERINGS

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2027
**MEMORY ZONE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION DURING THE GATHERINGS
5TH GRADERS' LAST SUNDAY IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, HEADING ON TO "YOUTH"**

JULY 12-16, 2027
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2027
FAREWELL TO RISING 4TH-GRADERS IN CHILDREN'S CHURCH

OUR CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

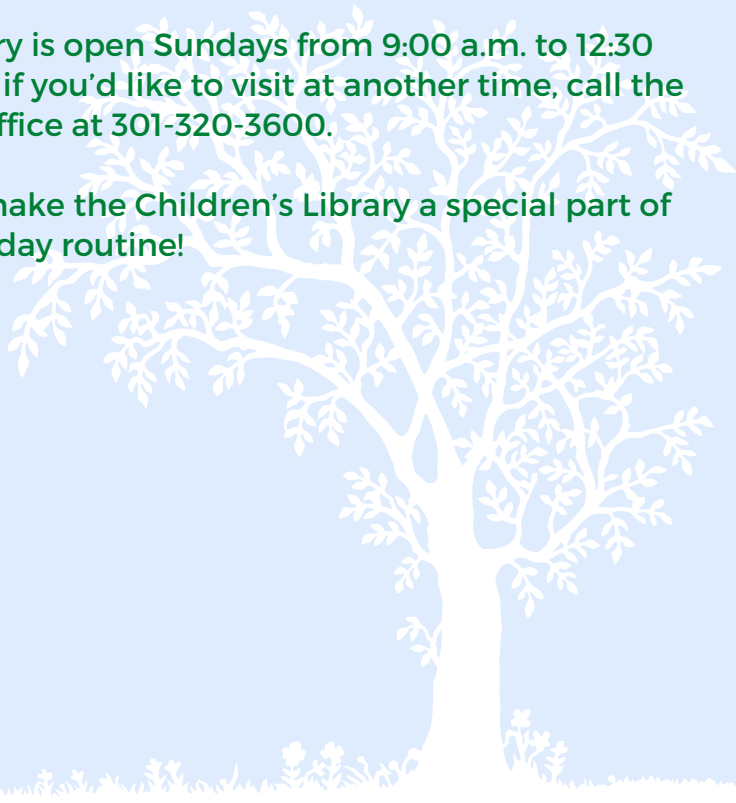
A HIDDEN TREASURE

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

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.