

COVENANT

Please read and discuss with your child, and use as a guide in your relationship with the church

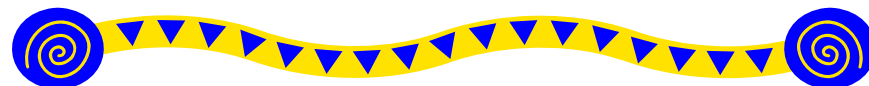
This Covenant serves as an agreement between the church and the church families not only to establish unity but to honor and respect the church as Christ calls us to do. It is our hope that each person, as we review and sign the covenant will be reminded of our own contribution and dedication to the children's ministry and to First Church as a whole.

First Church Children's Ministry seeks to:

- *Lift up the name of Jesus Christ at all times
- *Provide a safe, fun environment for learning and growing
- *Be intentional about encouraging each child in their encounter with Christ
- *Be sensitive to age level needs and the needs of families
- *Endeavor to make prayer a priority in all areas of children's ministry
- *Example Christian life

Each family is asked to:

- *Continually remind each child to keep Christ as the center of attention
- *Communicate openly and consistently the importance of **timeliness, manners, and respect** for others
- *Carefully observe and keep all security measures implemented by First Church Staff and Children's Ministry
- *Keep FCCM in personal and family prayers
- *Be sensitive to the challenges of children's ministry: i.e. volunteer leadership, diversity in kids' personalities, ages, life situations, etc.



Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19.14

Dear Parents;

We are so excited about the ministry of First Church and want to get our families connected in every way. Matthew 19.14 demonstrates how even from the beginning, children have been so uniquely desired.



My name is Katie Christensen and I'm the Director of Children's Ministry here at First Church. We believe that every child is set aside for God's purpose and that he has a plan for each of their lives. Our goal is to help our kids build a foundation of faith by using the Bible as the basis of our teachings, developing lessons & activities around the physical and emotional needs of a child, recruiting teachers who encourage children to become disciples of Christ through personal evangelism and church fellowship, and most importantly encourage the parents to teach their children about Christ through word and action. We believe all church ministries must support parents as spiritual leaders, but the primary responsibility of providing religious instruction should come from the parents.

So whether it's through Sunday school, children's church, Children's choir, Wednesday night bible study, celebrate recovery, or our annual events, the children's ministry of First Church is designed to help parents by teaching their children to live a life for Jesus. This is our goal...this is our responsibility...and this is our passion.

This packet is designed to give you an overview of our children's ministry and try to answer any questions you may have. If you still have questions or need more specific details please call Miss Katie at 239-6493. We are here to serve and would love to help you.

Real People. Real Lives. Real Love...it all starts here
First Church Children's Ministry.

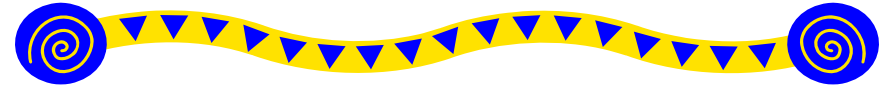
In His Name,

Katie Christensen
Director of Children's Ministry



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Security Procedures/Expectations

Background Checks

Every teacher and child care worker is required to complete a criminal background check before working in the nursery or children's area. All criminal background checks are received and reviewed prior to anyone working or volunteering in the class room.

Age Specific Classes

Each child must attend their own age specific class or activity. If this is your first time to visit and would like your children to stay together, those arrangements can be made. However, our adult to child ratio varies from class to class and each class is designed to fit the needs of that specific age group.

Security Locked Children's Area

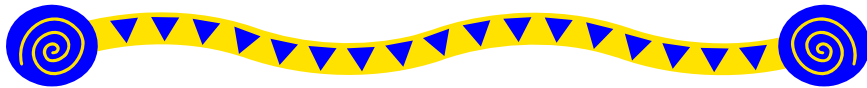
Our Children's area is a security locked area meaning the only open door to enter through is the main entrance door. These doors remain locked at all times but do open from the inside, so the children can exit, and are designed to automatically unlock if a fire or other emergency occurs. The Nursery area is separate from the children's area so it is not included in the locked security area. However each door is manned by a First Church Greeter and patrolled by a hired security guard.

Check In

We do use a security check in program called Checkpoint. It is currently down, but normally each family has a check in card that they pick up from either the nursery area or the children's area before each ministry activity. The parents will keep this card through the activity and then use the card to check their child out prior to leaving. The card must match up with the printed nametag your child receives when you check them in. A child may be checked in and out by either parent. However if someone else is needing to pick up your child they must have the check in card to match with that child's name tag. If the child is brought by someone other than a parent, the child will need to be checked out by that same person.

Health Concerns

For the safety and well being of all of our children please do not send your child to participate in nursery or children activities if the following symptoms occur. A fever of 100 degrees or more, Diarrhea (consistent), Discolored or consistent drainage from the nose or eyes, rash of any kind (unless there's a note from doctor)



Children's Ministry Team Roster

First Church Staff

Katie Christensen Director of Children's Ministry
Lynn Todd Part Time Nursery Coordinator

Nursery Staff

Samantha Babies
Sydney 1's & 2's
Rachel 3s & 4's

Sunday School Teachers

Nursery Staff & Volunteers Infants
Nursery Staff & Volunteers Walkers
Melanie Kindergarten
Cinda and Tony Decicco, Chris & Cindy Janka 1st & 2nd Grade
Terrie Fleshman 3rd Grade
Charlene Hudson and Dini Chissoe 4th & 5th Grade

Children's Church Teachers

Nursery Staff & Volunteers Infants
Nursery Staff & Volunteers Walkers
Melanie Kindergarten
Karen Pulido 1st & 2nd Grade
Mike and Dawna Mitchell 3rd Grade
Tony and Cynda Decicco & Tammy Patton 4th & 5th Grade
Jan Chapman and Katie Christensen Large Group

BSMV Team Leaders

Terri Morton Minister of Music
Shannon Wrights Dance Instructor
Nursery Staff & Volunteers Infants
Nursery Staff & Volunteers Walkers
Melanie Kindergarten



Spring Schedule

Sunday Mornings

9:30-10:30 Sunday School

Infants
Walkers
2's
3's & 4's
Kindergarten
1st & 2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th & 5th Grade

Tuesday Mornings

9:30 – 12:00 Mom's Bible Study

Each Tuesday, the moms get to participate in a spirit filled bible study while the kids participate in all kinds of fun activities downstairs. You won't want to miss it! It's great for moms and kids!

Wednesday Evenings

5:00-5:30 Dinner in Harris Hall
5:30-6:00 Prime Chimers (3rd-5th)
6:10-7:00 Musical Rehearsal (1st-5th Grade)
6:10-7:45 Birth-K in Bible classes
7:00-7:45 Hang out time
Bible worksheets, bible story movies, games,
and a chance to just hang out!

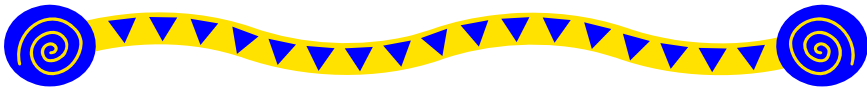
Annual Events

February: Parent Meeting
March: Mission's Week
April: Easter,
Memorial Marathon
June: Promotion Sunday,
Vacation Bible School,
Summer activities
July/August: Church camps,
Summer activities
October: Hallelujah Harvest

10:45-12:00 Children's Church

Same classrooms, different curriculum! This is filled with small group, large group, crafts, activities, bible stories, and tons of fun! The third Sunday of each, K-5th graders spend this hour in worship for Family Worship day!





Sunday School Curriculum Overview

The Sunday School experience at First Church provides a balanced approach to central Bible concepts, essential bible skills, and foundational Bible stories.

The 252basics as well as the Group curriculum focuses on each age group's level of learning and uses relative and interactive ways in making scripture come to life. The lessons are designed to meet the needs of different learning styles through a variety of teaching methods covering all biblical concepts. The bible study focuses on each age groups level of learning to enable the children to internalize Bible truths and apply them to life.. The kids also have the opportunity to earn points by memorizing bible verses and reciting them to their group leader. This is a way to reward kids for their hard work and



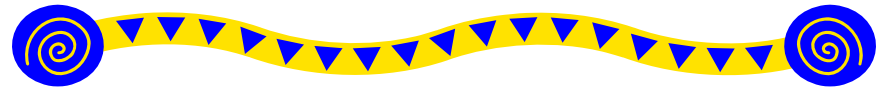
encourage the importance of scripture memory.

BMSV: "Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice – it takes the whole person to sing & rejoice!"

This is the motto for our redesigned children's music. Directed by a great group of BMSV team leaders, our children's music experience is second to none. BSMV will begin each Wednesday night with a fun activity then progress to a fast-paced, energetic and fun time of learning about music, discovering the lessons God wants us to learn through the music and learning songs to share with and bless others and our Father. Considerable emphasis will be given to outreach and serving others through music & drama.

Wednesday Night Bible Groups

Each month our Nursery aged kids small groups will spend the entire month learning a new bible story through various activities. We have volunteer teachers who use art, music, games, etc to teach our kids that month's bible story. The bible groups are divided by grade and each group has their own group leader who stays with them the entire semester.



Spring BMSV topic: Children's Musical It's Cool in the Furnace:

Rehearsals every Wednesday 6:10-7:00
Performance is May 31, 2009.

The First Church Kids Ministry Vision

Our ministry is focused around Matthew 19.14 which reads, "Jesus said, Let the children come, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these". When Jesus was out ministering, the adults were bringing the children to Jesus to be healed. However, the disciples rebuked the children and more or less asked them to leave. Jesus was very clear in His attempts and again called forth the children. Scripture says, "he laid His hands on them and went forth from there."

So often I think our children are overlooked by society or often thought of as "just children", but so clearly did Jesus disprove that theory! Not only did He take time to call them, but He proclaimed the Kingdom of Heaven belonged to them! Not only so, but in scripture we are called to have child like faith! The foundation of family ministry begins with the parents and goes all the way down to the children! I hope we can assist in being a part of your child's life

