

Parents are blessed with many wonderful opportunities for nurturing the Christian faith of their children. They are in an ideal position to capture the every day moments of awe and wonder that lead to spontaneous worship.

As parents sit with their children in worship each Sunday, they can guide them through each part. At home, families may use the Doxology or *Gloria Patri* as a dinner grace. Favorite Bible stories may be read over and over.

Parents are most able to hear the questions asked out of the ordinary experiences of their children's lives.

We hope parents will truly be partners in their children's Christian nurture by:

- Encouraging consistent attendance and participation in worship and Children's Church School
- Consciously teaching and encouraging faith development in their children at home
- Sharing concerns, questions, and dreams with the Children's Ministry Committee or the Youth Club Committee
- Visiting the classrooms
- Serving in various capacities in our Children's Ministry Program



For more information about our Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, please contact us at 610-395-3781.

## SAFE SANCTUARIES -

### Our Commitment to Provide for the Well-Being of our Children and Youth

We are called by the beliefs of our church and our covenant of baptism to participate in the nurture and guidance of all children of God. One of the Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) makes it clear that we are "to love, pray for and bless (our children) ... protecting and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body..." (Westminster Larger Catechism, 7.239).

One of the ways First Presbyterian Church seeks to fulfill this promise is through our Safe Sanctuaries Policy. Adopted by the Session of our church in 2003, the policy provides for:

- Screening of all adult volunteers serving in our Children's and Youth Ministry programs and training them in the intent and practical aspects of the policy.
- A variety of safeguards to minimize the potential risk of any form of child abuse within our programs.
- A Safe Sanctuaries Committee that administers this policy, assuring its implementation throughout Christian Education Ministry programs.

A copy of the complete Safe Sanctuaries Policy is available upon request.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3231 W. Tilghman St.  
Allentown, PA 18104  
610-395-3781  
[www.fpcallentown.org](http://www.fpcallentown.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
2010-2011





**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** at First Presbyterian Church strives to tell the story of God's love as it is compellingly portrayed in the Bible, and to feel God's love by sharing it with our church family, our neighbors and the world.

In all the programs we strive to:

- Share the stories of our Christian faith and our own individual faith experiences
- Form a caring community in each classroom and within our church family
- Engage parents as partners in their children's faith formation through good communication and opportunities for participation
- Sponsor class projects that demonstrate God's love for our church family, our neighbors and our world

**SUNDAY NURSERY** provides safe, loving care for our youngest children, from birth to 3 years. Pagers make it possible to reach parents anywhere in the building. The nursery is staffed by qualified caregivers Sundays 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., with a nursery coordinator who oversees scheduling volunteers and assists when needed. The congregation at First Presbyterian Church is committed to ensuring a loving introduction to church for our children and their families. The nursery is available throughout the year for worship services and Sunday Church School.

**WEE WORSHIP** is an optional program for children that helps them make the transition from nursery to attending the full worship service. Children sit with their families during the

first part of the worship service, and after *Children's Time* they are led to a classroom by the parents in charge. They have a short time for free play. They sing, listen to a Bible story, pray, and enjoy a simple snack as parents take turns leading the program. Wee Worship is offered at services on Sunday morning throughout the year for children aged 3 (potty trained) through 1st graders.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL** provides individual classes for 3-year-old through 5th grade students. Classes are 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. on each Sunday, September 12, 2010 through June 12, 2011. Working in teams, experienced teachers nurture and encourage the children's faith development. Classes are using curricula which are biblically based and age/grade appropriate. Special worship times, mission projects and seasonal activities are part of each year. New registrants are welcome anytime during the year!

**YOUTH CLUB**, a four-part program for children in grades 1-5, creates an arena in which Christian relationships are built. Through Bible study, the children continue to learn the story of God's love. Recreation and dinner provide time for fun and fellowship between young and old. In choir, children learn music skills and prepare to sing in worship. Youth Club meets Tuesdays, 4:00 - 7:15 p.m. during the fall and winter/spring semesters.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**, which takes place the end of June for children aged 4 through completed 5th grade, provides a very exciting week of Bible study, fun activities with peers and youth assistants, lively music, a special mission project, and a wide variety of learning experiences.

## **WELCOMING CHILDREN TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

class, offered on November 21st from 2:00 p.m.—5:15 p.m., is an opportunity for children in 1st through 5th grade and their parents to grow in their understanding of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

## **CONGREGATIONAL ADVENT FESTIVAL**

on Saturday, Dec. 11th from 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. is a wonderful time for everyone - young and no-so-young, families, couples and singles - to have fun while focusing on the true meaning of the Advent/Christmas season. Activities for everyone include creating Advent-related crafts, enjoying a delicious brunch, and singing carols together.

**PARENTS' MORNING CO-OP**, a weekday cooperative care program, is open to parents and children from the church and community, with children from infancy through age 5. It focuses on the development and socialization of the children through free play, story time, singing, simple crafts, outdoor play, and a snack, while encouraging positive relationships between the parents. The program year has two terms: September through December and January through May, and meets Wednesdays, 9:15 - 11:15 a.m.



**WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL** offers a nurturing environment that encourages the social, physical, emotional and cognitive development of every child and promotes Christian love and values, self-esteem and respect for others. From September to May, there are morning classes for 3 and 4-year-olds and Pre-Kindergarteners. As a mission of First Presbyterian Church, the Weekday Preschool welcomes children of church members and community families of all races and religions.