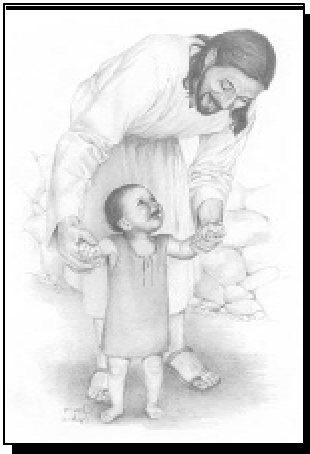


Worshiping with Children



Children In Worship

Welcome to Parma-South Presbyterian Church We are glad you are here! Children are valued and nurtured here at Parma-South. Parma-South encourages parents, grandparents, and neighbors, to bring children with them to worship for part or all of the service.

When a child is baptized in the Presbyterian Church the congregation promises to raise children "by word and deed, with love and prayer" until they are ready to claim the faith as their own. Our belief is that the inclusion of children into the worship life of our congregation is essential to the health of our community.

We have made a commitment to help children learn to worship. Perhaps they will not always understand everything that happens in the worship service, but then neither do we adults! What children will understand is that it is a place where they are loved, accepted, and needed. In worship children, even infants, experience love and begin to build a sense of belonging to the family of faith and to the community of believers.

There is nothing like the exuberance of a child! The wonder, enthusiasm, and spontaneity of children remind us of those qualities in God. The mystery, the creativity, the energy, and the awesome presence of God is in this place. Having children in worship with us reminds us of what it means to be "a child of God"

Children's Bulletins and "**Pew Packs**" are available from the Ushers. We hope these will help your child feel very special and valued here at Parma-South Presbyterian Church.



Communion

In the Presbyterian Church, all adults and children who desire to live in the love of Jesus Christ are welcome at the table. Communion is a joyful celebration of God's love, share it with your child. Talk with your child about the meaning of Communion. The Pastors have many resources to help you.

*"Let the little children
come to me" (Mark 10:14)*

Parma-South Presbyterian Church
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Suggestions for Parma-South Members

- * During the passing of the peace, greet children as well as their parents. Smile!
- * Hand offering plates to children, not over their heads.
- * Children often feel invisible in a sea of adults. Take time to greet them before and after the service, at their eye level if possible.
- * Ensure children have a bulletin of their very own.
- * Introduce visitors to the "Pew Packs" for young children.
- * Invite a child you know to sit with you during the worship service. Or offer to sit with a family who may need an extra set of hands.
- * Have patience with the learning process. We are all children of God.
- * Compliment parents and their children who have joined us for worship.

Suggestions for Parents

- * Allow plenty of time for your family to get settled before the service begins.
- * Encourage children to use their special soft church voice.
- * Sit up front! Children like to be able to see clearly.
- * Introduce your child to people sitting near by you.
- * Go over the order of worship in the bulletin. Help your child find the scripture passages and hymns and mark them with a book mark.
- * Children learn worship etiquette by participating. Please feel free to quietly whisper and explain what is going on to your child.
- * Encourage children to take part in the special children's message. Accompany them if they are feeling shy or hesitant.
- * Remember it can be hard for little ones to sit for a long time. Allow your child to quietly move around, kneel on the floor, use the pew as a desk.
- * Make Sunday morning more peaceful by laying out clothing the night before.
- * Some families keep a special "Church Bag" all packed with quiet toys and books, or use one of ours.