



1st Pres Children's Choir Handbook

Music Ministry Coordinator | Susan Orgain
Directed by
Marjie Sharp and Edye Swab



Why We Sing

“Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice! It takes the WHOLE PERSON to sing and rejoice!” Helen Kemp

I wanted my own children to have the children’s church choir experience primarily because I had great memories of choir from my childhood and youth. Now that my children are grown I have different reasons for advocating for such opportunities. It is gratifying to see that my adult children know many passages of scripture, know how to participate more fully in worship, understand the purpose and meaning of the worship elements, and appreciate musical offerings from others. I believe we actually miss part of our responsibility to commend God’s works to the next generation (Psalm 145:4-7) if we do not encourage this group learning.

I was recently inspired by a choir director who shared that the breath we use when singing actually represents the gift of life that God breathed into us. As such, when we sing in worship we are actually offering a part of ourselves back to God. Our children experience this idea when, as a choir, they sing in worship services. In song, they learn to pray comfortably, give thanks, and recite scripture. Developing musical literacy aids in their cognitive growth. Our children grasp theology in great hymns and liturgy. There is discipline involved in being part of a group. Children understand boundaries and practice giving and receiving respect. We build and encourage a community by singing together, but most of all, we experience God through song.

Edye Swab

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”
Psalm 40:3

“Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before his presence with singing” Psalm 100:2

“Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.”
Psalm 33:1-3



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted that your child is interested in being a part of the First Presbyterian Church Children's Choir program this year! Being in choir is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow together through music. Our choirs are open to children in kindergarten-fifth grade.

Please make sure to read through this entire handbook to familiarize yourself with the policies of this group. You may register your child for Children's Choir online at 1stpres.com/childrens-choir-registration/. Please include an email address to receive email updates and reminders regarding choir rehearsals and participation in worship. This handbook will also be available on the church's website: 1stpres.com/worship/music-worship-arts/.

First choir rehearsal is Wednesday, September 6 at 5:50 (K-5th). First chimer rehearsal is Sunday, September 10 at 4:30 (2nd-5th).

If you have any questions about choir, please feel free to contact Susan Orgain at susano@1stpres.com, Marjie Sharpe at marjiesharpe@me.com or Edye Swab at edyeswab@triad.rr.com. We're looking forward to a great year of music making!

Sincerely,
Susan Orgain



Rehearsals

Children's Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening that school is in session from 5:50-6:30 pm (unless otherwise stated). K-2 rehearsals are held in the choir room located on the third floor of building A, directly across from the elevator. 3-5 grade rehearsals are held in room A-215 on the second floor. If a rehearsal is cancelled for any reason, parents will be notified in advance through email. A full list of rehearsal dates can be found on the last page of this handbook.



Children should arrive at or before 5:50pm on Wednesdays. Please refrain from bringing food and drink into rehearsal spaces. Rehearsals begin promptly at 5:50pm. Once rehearsal starts, choristers will not be permitted to leave the choir room without an adult until 6:30pm. Children attending Kids Connection will go as a group after rehearsal.

Choir Guidelines and Behavior

1. Be curious!
2. Be courteous!

Worship Service Attire

Choristers are encouraged to have black bottoms (slacks, skirts, leggings). We will announce colors for tops to go along with the season and to have some uniformity. Of course, it is fine to wear special dresses and/or outfits if it's important to your child!

Attendance

Children's Choir is an important activity and a great service to our congregation. It is considered to be a leadership role in worship. Therefore, it is crucial that children are present at all rehearsals and worship services. However, it is understandable that conflicts do come up. **If your child/children cannot attend a rehearsal or performance please send Susan, Marjie, or Edye an email as soon as possible. We will be concerned and check with you if someone doesn't show up.**



Worship Service Planning and Procedures

On the following two pages, you will find our entire worship leadership, concert, and rehearsal date schedule for the 2017-2018 choir season. If there are any changes to the schedule, parents will be notified by email with the details.

Children's Choirs sing for worship services about once a month. We usually alternate between the 8:45 service and the 11:00 service.

If we are singing at the 8:45 service children need to arrive in the sanctuary by 8:15. If we are singing at the 11:00 service, we will gather the children from Sunday School at 10:25 and walk them to the worship center. Those children not in Sunday School will need to arrive at the worship center by 10:30.

*If you are already aware of conflicts with any of the dates on the following pages, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Children's Choir Dates

(2017-2018 School Year)

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
September 10 11:00 am service	10:30 am	Worship Center
October 8 8:45 am service	8:15 am	Sanctuary
November 12 11:00 am service	10:30 am	Worship Center
November 19 Possible outreach outing	4:00 pm	Gallery Lounge
December 17 Christmas Program during 8:45 & 11:00 am services	8:15 am	Sanctuary
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm service	3:30 pm	Worship Center
January 21 11:00 am service	10:30 am	Worship Center
Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wed 6:30 pm service	5:50 pm	Fellowship Hall Sanctuary
March 25 Palm Sunday 8:45 & 11:00 am services	8:15 am	Sanctuary
April 22 Children's Sunday 8:45 am service	8:15 am	Sanctuary

Rehearsal Dates:

(Wednesday evenings from 5:50-6:30pm unless otherwise noted)

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

October 4
October 11
October 18
October 25

November 1
November 8
November 15
November 29

December 6
December 13

January 10
January 17
January 24
January 31



February 7
February 14
February 21
February 28

March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28

April 11
April 18
April 25