First Presbyterian Children’s Choir

2022-2023
Handbook

Children’s Music Ministry Coordinator: Susan Orgain

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Why We Sing

Children have a unique and compelling role in leading the church in worship. They bring spontaneity, enthusiasm, and joy to the worship of God. The church worships better with children in its midst. In their musical ministry role at First Presbyterian the children:

1)...learn what it means to worship. We were created with a basic need to worship God, and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. Children learn more about worship through the ministry of music. Children’s music coordinates with children’s ministries to provide a consistent program of worship education.

2)...develop a deeper familiarity of the Bible. Music is carefully chosen with texts depicting spiritual truths and texts for memorizing scripture.

3)...develop musical skills including rhythmic and vocal training, reading music, part singing, tuning and blending. Children are equipped for a lifetime of praising God through music.

4)...grow personally and socially. They learn discipline, cooperation, and the importance of honoring God with their best efforts. They grow in poise and self-confidence.
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 choir is open to children in kindergarten-fifth grade.

Please make sure to read through this entire handbook to familiarize yourself with the guidelines for this group. The Children’s Choir handbook is also available on the church’s website: www.1stpres.com.

Our first rehearsal date is Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

If you have any questions about choir, please feel free to contact Susan Orgain at susano@1stpres.com. We’re looking forward to a great year of music making!

Sincerely,
Susan Orgain

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**Children’s Choir Music and Mission 2022**

“A Victorian Storybook Christmas”

December 10, 2022
Korner’s Folly-Kernersville Yuletide
Rehearsals
Children’s Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening from 5:50-6:30pm (unless otherwise stated). Rehearsals are held in the choir room located on the third floor of building A. 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 Mountain Top Kids will go as a group after rehearsal.

Choir Guidelines and Behavior
1. Always sing your best and listen to directions.
2. Refrain from talking while adults are talking.
3. Always get permission before playing any instruments including the piano.
4. Come directly to your rehearsal room when you leave your parents.
5. Be on your best behavior during worship services and concerts.

Worship Service Attire
Choristers are encouraged to have black bottoms (slacks, skirts, leggings) and a white top when we sing in the sanctuary. The children will be wearing robes. Since we don’t wear robes in the worship center, we’ll 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 an email as soon as possible. We will be concerned and check with you if someone doesn’t show up.**

Worship Service Procedures

On the following two pages you will find our entire worship leadership, and rehearsal date schedules for the 2022-2023 choir season. If there are any changes to the schedules, parents will be notified by email with the details.

Children’s Choir sings for worship about once a month.

*Normally children will need to arrive in the sanctuary by 8:40.*

*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

2022-2023 school year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE/EVENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September 7</strong>&lt;br&gt; FIRST REHEARSAL!</td>
<td>5:50</td>
<td>Choir Room / A319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 9</strong>&lt;br&gt; 9:15 service</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 13</strong>&lt;br&gt; 9:15 service</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 10</strong>&lt;br&gt; Music and Mission</td>
<td>10:00-2:00ish</td>
<td>Kernersville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 24</strong>&lt;br&gt; Christmas Eve Pageant</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>worship center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 19</strong>&lt;br&gt; 9:15 service</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 19</strong>&lt;br&gt; 9:15 service</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 16</strong>&lt;br&gt; 9:15 service</td>
<td>8:40</td>
<td>sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 3</strong>&lt;br&gt; END OF YEAR CELEBRATION</td>
<td>tbd</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rehearsal Dates:
(Wednesday evenings: 5:50-6:30pm)

September 7th  
September 14th  
September 21st  
September 28th  

October 5th  
October 12th  
October 19th  
October 26th  

November 2nd  
November 9th  
November 16th  
November 30th  

December 7th  
December 14th  

January 11th  
January 18th  
January 25th  

February 1st  
February 8th  
February 15th  
February 22nd  

March 1st  
March 8th  
March 15th  
March 22nd  
March 29th  

April 12th  
April 19th  
April 26th (?)  

May 3rd (?)
Rethinking the Role of the Children's Choir in Worship (excerpts)

by Andrea Baxter

Theologian and teacher Marva Dawn once said that children are the fingers and toes of the body of Christ that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians. The metaphor works beautifully for many reasons, not least of which is the wiggling nature of both fingers/toes and children. Dawn’s point was to drive home the importance of children in the worshiping body; children bring unique characteristics of innocence, openness, joy, playfulness, and enthusiasm, among others. When those qualities are missing in worship, the body is not whole.

Perhaps even more important than the wholeness of the body is the interaction of the various parts. After all, Paul has the parts of the body communicating with each other: “And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body” (1 Corinthians 12:17). The last thing we want those fingers and toes to think is that they do not belong to the body. So how do we communicate with, interact with, and nurture those in our midst who are perhaps viewed as being weaker or even dispensable by some? One way to open channels of communication between the generations is to engage the children’s choir.

The role of the children’s choir—or any choir for that matter—is to help the congregation to see and hear God through its music. The text sung by the choir might be a prayer offered on behalf of the congregation, a summary of scripture, or even words of encouragement to act in a certain way. When the choir communicates with the congregation in this way, however, the channel flows one way. The choir sings, and the congregation receives.

Another, more central purpose of the choir is to lead the congregation’s song. This role requires active participation on the part of the choir and the congregation. Interaction is especially obvious when the choir teaches a new song or hymn. The choir sings, and the congregation responds. Communication becomes a two-way channel.

A whole body, complete with head, torso, and fingers and toes, is good. Even better is when we open avenues for God to be able to use the variety of gifts present so the parts of the body can interact more fully. Involving the children’s choir in active music leadership is one good way for that to happen!