

First Presbyterian Children's Choir

2023-2024

Handbook



Children's Music Ministry Coordinator: Susan Orgain



LEADERS

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Children's Choir

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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 6, 2023.

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

[SPECIAL EVENT: WE'RE GOING TO SEE...](#)

"The Night Before Christmas" by Bel Canto



December 2, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Van Dyke Performance Space 200 N Davie St, Greensboro

Greensboro, NC

(cost will be \$5/ticket plus dinner)

Dinner at a restaurant to be determined.



Rehearsals

Children's Choir rehearsals are held **every Wednesday evening from 5:50-6:30pm** (unless otherwise stated). Rehearsals are generally held in the choir room located on the third floor of building A. If a rehearsal is cancelled or changed for any reason, parents will be notified in advance through email. **A full list of rehearsal dates can be found on page 8 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. Sing your best and listen to directions.
2. Refrain from talking while adults are talking.
3. 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

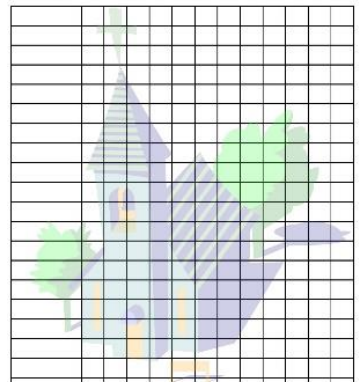
Choristers are encouraged to have black bottoms (slacks, skirts, leggings). We'll announce colors for tops to go along with the season and to have some uniformity. Of course, it is fine to wear special dresses and/or outfits if it's important to your child! We will provide further information if there is a decision to wear choir robes, but robes still work best with black bottoms (not shorts).

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.

Attendance Chart



Worship Service Procedures

On the following two pages you will find our entire worship leadership, and rehearsal date schedules for the 2023-2024 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 8:50.

*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 SCHEDULE DATE/EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
September 6 FIRST REHEARSAL!	5:45	Fellowship Hall
October 15 9:30 service	8:50	sanctuary
October 28 Anniversary Sunday rehearsal!	tbd	sanctuary
October 29 Anniversary Sunday	8:50	sanctuary
November 19 9:30 service	8:50	sanctuary
December 2 (Saturday) The Night Before Christmas Bel Canto Concert	4:00pm-dinner	Greensboro
December 24 Christmas Eve Pageant	3:00	worship center
February 4 9:30 service	8:50	sanctuary
February 17 (Saturday) 9:00-12:00 Mini-festival/workshop	9:00	choir room
March 24 Palm Sunday 9:30 service	8:50	sanctuary
April 21 9:30 service	8:50	sanctuary
May 1 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION	tbd	tbd



Rehearsal Dates:

(Wednesday evenings: 5:50-6:30pm)

September 6
 September 13
 September 20
 September 27

January 10
 January 17
 January 24
 January 31

October 4
 October 11
 October 18
 October 25
 October 28

February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28

November 1
 November 8
 November 15
 November 29

March 6
 March 13
 March 20
 March 27

December 6
 December 13

April 10
 April 17
 April 24 (?)

May 1 (?)

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!