

First Presbyterian Children's Choir

2026-2027

Handbook



Children's Music Ministry Coordinator: Susan Orgain



LEADERS

Mary Gonzales

Ginny Nagy

Director: Krista Steinour

Accompanist: Sarah Kennedy



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted that your child is interested in being a part of the **First Presbyterian Children's Choir program** this year! Being in choir is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow in the Spirit together through worship.

Our choir is open to children in Kindergarten through 5th 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, August 19th, 2026.

If you have any questions about choir, please feel free to contact Susan Orgain at susano@1stpres.com or Krista Steinour at kristas@1stpres.com. We're looking forward to a great year of worship and fellowship!

Sincerely,

The Children's Choir Worship Team



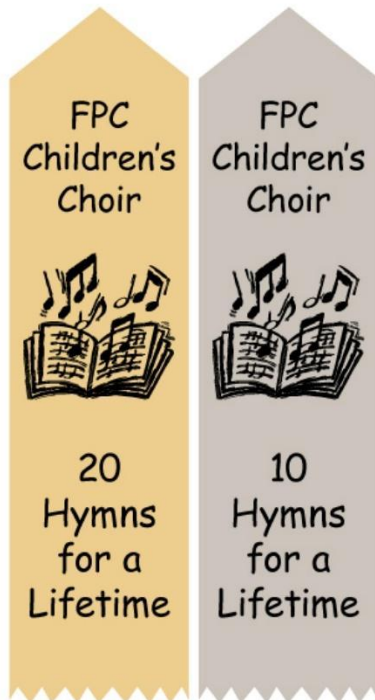
Children's Choir rehearsals are held **every Wednesday evening from 5:30 - 6:15pm** (unless otherwise stated). Rehearsals are held in the choir room located on the third floor of building A. If a rehearsal is cancelled for any reason, parents will be notified in advance through email. A full list of rehearsal dates can be found on page 7 of this handbook.

Children should arrive at or before 5:30pm on Wednesdays. Please refrain from bringing food and drink (except water bottles with a lid) into rehearsal spaces. **Rehearsals begin promptly at 5:30pm.** Once rehearsal starts, choristers will not be permitted to leave the choir room without an adult until 6:15pm. Children attending Mountain Top Kids will go as a group after rehearsal.

The Buddy Program

To help foster community and to instill a spirit of service, our older/ more experienced choristers will be paired with our younger/ less experienced singers this year. We are hoping that this will allow our students to become early mentors, teaching each other by being an example.

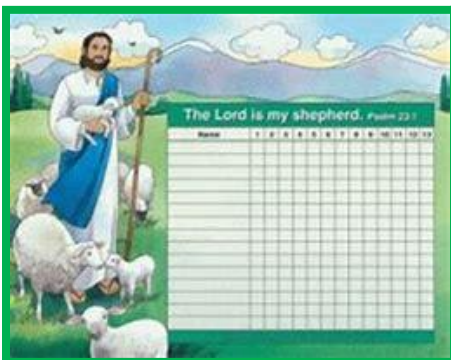
Hymns For A Lifetime



We are making some adjustments to continue our "Hymns for a Lifetime" program during the 2026/27 choir season.

To continue helping the children grow in their knowledge of hymns, we will be incorporating hymns into our warm ups each rehearsal. We will have hymnals for the choristers to use and will provide music for children to practice at home. Each chorister has a card in the choir room to keep track of complete hymns.

Attendance



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

Choir Guidelines and Behavior

1. Always try your best, sing out loud, and listen to directions.
2. Do not talk while adults are talking.
3. Always get permission before playing any instruments (including the piano).
4. Come directly to the choir rehearsal room when you leave your parents.
5. Be on your best behavior during worship services.

Worship Service Attire

Choristers are encouraged to have black bottoms (slacks, skirts) and a white top when we sing in the sanctuary. Most of the time the children will be wearing robes. You will be notified if the attire is different for a special occasion.

Worship Service Procedures

On the following two pages you will find our entire worship schedule and rehearsal date schedule for the 2026-2027 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 8:00.

*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

2026-2027 school year

DATE/EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
August 19th FIRST REHEARSAL!	5:30	Choir room
October 18th 8:45 service	8:15	Sanctuary
November 15th 8:45 service	8:15	Sanctuary
December 20th 11:00 service	10:30	Sanctuary
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 service	3:30	Worship center
January 31st 8:45 service	8:15	Sanctuary
February 21st 8:45 service	8:15	Sanctuary
March 21st Palm Sunday 8:45 and 11:00 service	8:15	Sanctuary
April 18th 8:45 service	8:15	Sanctuary

Rehearsal Dates:



(Wednesday evenings: 5:30-6:15)

August 19th

August 26th

September 2nd

September 9th

September 16th

September 23rd

September 30th

October 7th

October 14th

October 21st

October 28th

November 4th

November 11th

November 18th

December 2nd

December 9th

December 16th

January 6th

January 13th

January 20th

January 27th

February 3rd

February 10th

February 17th

February 24th

March 3rd

March 10th

March 17th

March 24th

April 7th

April 14th

April 21st

April 28th