

Children's CHOIR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR: THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2025-2026

I wonder how often we consider “gratitude” when it comes to the opportunity to sing together? When we’re navigating traffic, dinner, and other obligations on Wednesday evenings...when we have to get up early ON SUNDAY to get the kids dressed and, in the sanctuary, so early...when we’re looking for the crazy error somewhere in the most recent newsletter...do we always feel grateful for the chance to sing and worship together? If we’re being honest, we probably need to admit that there are times when we really wonder if it’s worth all the trouble.

This year, though, I have been reminded of just how grateful I am that God gave me the opportunity to be with and work with all of you. I cannot imagine what my “church family life” would be without the chance to know you all, to watch your children grow, to see them outside of the church setting, to hear about their daily lives, and to share the wonder of walking our earthly journey in the love of Jesus and the fellowship of his church. I’ve also received the incredible friendship of faithful adults who have walked along side me in the Children’s Choir ministry demonstrating in their own ways how they love to serve Jesus.

Please let me take this moment to thank you, First Presbyterian Church staff, parents, and colleagues/friends for all you did to help me celebrate my years in this program. I’m sure you understand that it is difficult to accept such accolades for simply wanting to serve and to love the families in our local church. That being said, I most sincerely thank you for the beautiful reception, the gifts, the kind words, the notes, and the cherished photos with so many of you!

Check out all we’ve done together this year!

PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION

September 28, 2025

I Will Show You the Way

November 16, 2025

Make a Joyful Noise!

December 21, 2025

Somebody's Talkin' 'bout Jesus

December 24, 2025

Unto Us a Child is Born

February 15, 2026

Wade in the Water

March 29, 2026

Forever We Shall Sing

April 19, 2026

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Choir Festival in Richmond, Va. November 14-15, 2025



Seven children and five youth along with parents and leaders traveled to Richmond to participate with other children and youth in a multi-choir festival. We were given a repertoire of 5 anthems to prepare ahead of time. In Richmond the children rehearsed under the direction of the very talented clinician, Karol Kimmel. Our children participated beautifully, which is why we feel very comfortable taking them on this trip. This was the first time the Richmond festival included a youth choir under the direction of Daniel Banke! The youth from our church did an exceptional job and served as excellent role models for the children. The youth returned with a prepared anthem they wanted to share with the adult choir. We sang it together on Easter Sunday!

Video Recording Session April 22, 2026

End-of-year birthday/recording party

With the help of Dylan McKeeman, the children video recorded one verse of “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”, “Forever We Shall Sing”, Praise Ye the Lord, Give me Oil in my Lamp, and a two-verse rendition of “Happy Birthday”. A QR code linked to the video is put on stickers and used by the Communicating Love and Care card writing ministry. The card writers include the sticker in birthday cards. The recording can also be used as a gift to those who are unable to worship in person (and/or family members who request it).

Fifth Grader Celebration & introduction to Youth Choir April 26, 2026

We “graduated” a special fifth grader who served faithfully in the Children’s Choir! He has since joined our youth choir, adding his voice to a talented group of middle and high schoolers in rehearsals and in worship! To celebrate his service in the music ministry the children’s choir leaders enjoyed a special dinner with him and a friend at Umi Japanese Steak House.



Our Final Rehearsal Together!

We had such a good time! Our choir helpers, Ginny Nagy, Mary Gonzales, Krista Steinour, Lois Dodds, and of course Susan Orgain provided cake, ice cream, water, and a special treat. Children received pins for their lanyards to recognize their service in the choir this year. The most beautiful of all was everyone singing together! May the message of our song continue to ring true!

Go now in peace
May the love of God surround you.
Everywhere you may go.



PARTICIPATION

A total of 31 children participated in the children's choir this year.

6 children had an attendance rate of over 90%.

21 children had an attendance rate of over 75%.

We "graduated" one (very talented) fifth grader from Children's Choir to Youth Choir!

Currently there are 4 high school students singing in the adult choir...all of whom came through the children's and youth choirs!

2026-2027 will be the start of something BIG! Let's start a new chapter TOGETHER!
See you on August 19!