

Storytelling is the key

Our experience with young children convinces us that they know, love, and worship God! But corporate worship is full of words and symbols based on stories and memories children do not yet have.

For children to participate meaningfully in corporate worship, they must first experience the stories of worship through all the senses *and* movement. Our children's worship involves the flow of activity corresponding to the four basic elements of worship: gathering, listening, thinking and going.

And most importantly, our children's worship is about sacred stories from the Bible.



St. Mark United Methodist Church is proud to have been offering Young Children's Worship since August 2004.



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St. Mark
United Methodist Church

Young Children's Worship

God is to be
experienced,
not just
learned about.



Order of Worship

We begin the year in mid-August to orient the children to the worship center. In this time of getting ready to be with God, we do two things: we help the children learn to enter sacred time and place, and we help them learn how to use the room all by themselves. Worship itself will have the following order:

We Approach God
The Greeting
Songs of Praise

We Proclaim God's Word
Telling God's Word
Wondering Together
Story and Art
Returning to the Circle
Reading the Bible

We Give Thanks to God
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Preparation of the Feast
The Feast

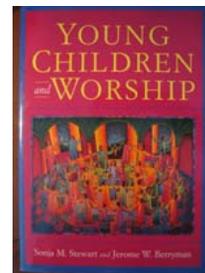
Go in God's Name
Benediction



Children's Worship Basics

- ♦ Children's Worship at St. Mark United Methodist Church begins in August and runs every Sunday through May.
- ♦ Traditional worship begins at 11am, and children will be escorted to the Children's Worship room after the Children's Message time, about 15 minutes into the service.
- ♦ Children's Worship is for children age 4 to 8 (preschool through 2nd grade).
- ♦ Each session will include a story or parable during the "Telling God's Word" time (see Order of Worship).
- ♦ Stories and parables include: The Good Shepherd, Creation, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Exodus, The Promised Land, The Temple, Exile and Return, Meeting the Christ Child, The Mustard Seed, The Great Pearl, The Sower, Jesus and the Children, Jesus is Risen, Pentecost and others.

"Children need to be introduced to the meaning and actions of worship.... They need to know how to find the quiet place within...[and] they need to experience the essential parts of worship in a worshiping atmosphere instead of a class where worship is merely explained. Our goal is to create an environment that enables young children to encounter and worship God." From our guiding text, Young Children and Worship by Sonja M. Steward and Jerome W. Berryman.



A Very Special Place

The Worship Center room is a very special place to be with God. In this place we have all the time we need. This is a special place to be with God, to talk with God, to listen to God and to hear the stories of God.



ST. MARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Questions? Contact:

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