

# Family & Children's Ministry

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH



When children feel at home in the church, they know it is safe to go and sit inside the pulpit during the service! Our children and their families aren't only the future of the church, they are very much the present of the church. We provide both childcare and Sunday School during our family service at 9:30 a.m. as well as childcare at 11:15 a.m.



On Sundays, adults spent time with our children so that they - both the adults and the children - can grow in faith and learn to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Our confirmation classes provide age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn and decide about their own faith.



Children's playground



Baptism and confirmation



Family outing



Learning together



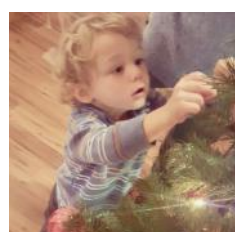
Arts and crafts



Playing together



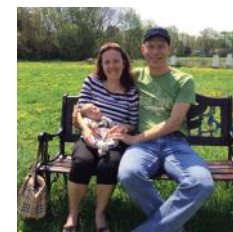
Family movie night



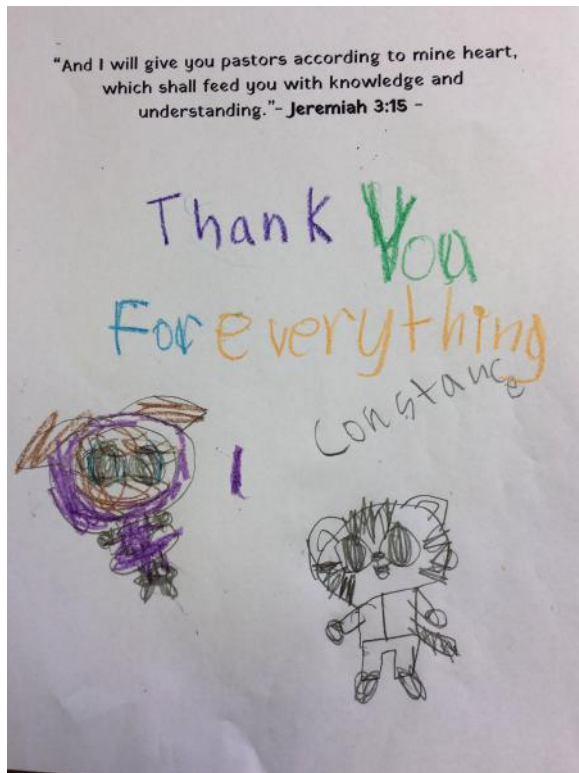
Preparing for Christmas

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JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Celebrating a new family



During our Sunday morning church services we typically have 20 to 30 children - from babies through to teenagers - present with us. Our families are diverse and do not all look the same and yet all of the children are \*our\* children. When we baptize a child at The University Church, the entire congregation takes vows before God to nurture that child in the Christian faith and life, and to include that child in their care. We take this commitment seriously.

In addition to childcare and Sunday School classes, we offer an age-appropriate confirmation program for children to explore and develop their own faith. The University Church operates under a 'Safe Sanctuary' model such that all adults who work with children are required to undertake a background check and adhere to specific guidelines developed for the safety and well-being of our children.



We encourage children to participate in the mission and outreach of the church. For example, at our Third Thursday Community Outreach, children will often be among the volunteers helping to carry bags of groceries out to our shuttle bus for the neighbors we have served. Children are also involved in our Community Garden work and we encourage children to develop their own voices about issues of peace and justice that are of concern to them.

As the church is itself a family, our family-friendly events are inclusive of everyone who wants to be part of activities that span the generations. We encourage family activities - often based around the tradition of the 'potluck supper' - that range from movie nights to decorating the church Christmas tree.



If you have children, we hope that you will introduce them to The University Church. And if you are able to spend time with our children on some Sunday mornings, please talk with us about the steps necessary to be part of our Family and Children's Ministry team.

Annie Yensz is our Director of Family and Children's Ministry. Annie is passionate about working with families and children, and can be reached at:

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**419-534-3080**

We invite you to become involved in our work with families and children. Annie would love to hear from you.

