

For Children on Sunday mornings - at Dixboro United Methodist Church

On Sunday mornings children join families in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for the beginning of Worship. During the Children's message all children are invited to the front of the church to hear a short message and then dismissed. Crib through 4 years go to the Nursery for childcare and Kdg through 5th grade go upstairs for "Children's Church".

"Children's Church" is using a modified curriculum loosely based on the "Godly Play" method.

"The result of a lifetime of research and practice by theologian, author and educator, Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman, the Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience. Godly Play® practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives.

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. Godly Play has a Montessori foundation with 40+ years of research and practice. Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships. Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations. Godly Play allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning. Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play. " [Godly Play Curriculum](#)

Consistent with best practices for learning and faith development each Sunday in Children's Church the following routine is followed.

- **Entering the room**, finding a place on the floor, giving everyone enough room to feel safe and to make sure no one sits too close to anyone else.
- **Greeting** - Special welcome greeting each person by name
- **Call to Worship** - Reminder of why we are together -
 - We come to be with God in special ways, to speak with God, listen to God, learn about God. Most importantly to know how God loves us and wants us to love each other
 - Includes a prayer or song to settle/focus and prepare ourselves for receiving God's message for us.
- **Story Time** - the telling or reading of Bible stories with time for wondering.
- **Response** - Activities designed to explore a specific part of the story
- **Blessing/Going in God's Name** - time for sharing thankfulness and offering a blessing as we part

Timing is approx 45 min (10:45-11:30) depending on Sanctuary Worship.

Parents or designated adult must come to collect child after Worship.

Each Sunday requires at least 2 adults. Main storyteller and an assistant to help encourage listening and participation. A parent is welcome to stay.

Date	Main Storyteller	Worship Assistant	Date	Main Storyteller	Worship Asstnt
11/5	Linda Brown	Kathleen Hucks	12/3	Linda Brown	
11/12	Linda Brown		12/10	Linda Brown	
11/19	Linda Brown		12/17	Linda Brown	
11/26	Linda Brown		12/24	Linda Brown	

Children's Church Curriculum plan -

Currently each Sunday is about one aspect of Creation Story - based in Genesis 1 & 2

Sept 24. Story from picture book - "response" activity was creating art showing something from the story - animals etc. via drawing, painting, coloring, a little clay work

Oct. 1 Story from picture story books and the "response" activity was an opportunity for the children to create - with various types of dough or magnetic tiles or lego bricks.

Oct. 8 - Story focusing on creation of "Garden of Eden" - "response" activity decorating pots and planting Spider plant "babies"

Oct 15. Story focused on creation of humans for purpose of taking care of Creation - activity more spider plant work - taking care of the spider plants.

Oct. 22 Story from Godly play Creation story - emphasizing God sees everything created as Good Activity - completing spider plants repotting/planting and see it as good

Oct 29 & Nov 12 - Story will emphasize humans created in God's image - (Genesis 1 & 2; Psalm 139)

- **10/29-** Activity focus on each God making each of us out of the clay of the earth, unique - the sensory experience of working with clay, finding a color of clay that looks like our unique skin color; and made in God's image - unique - drawing large outlines of each child and filling in various characteristics.
- **11/12** - Activity will focus on each of us with individual characteristics

Nov. 5 - Story about communion - Activity will be rejoining for communion/or working on clay figure

Nov. 19 - Story will complete section on Creation

Nov 26 Advent

Dec 3 Advent

Dec 10 Advent

Dec 17 Advent

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve special