

August 22, 2022

Dear Children and Families of Myers Park Presbyterian:

August has us with one foot firmly planted in enjoying the fleeting summer days and one foot stepping forward into the back-to-school excitement. As you are preparing for your children to head back to preschool or elementary school, we hope you are also gearing up for Sunday School and all of the other Children & Family ministries at Myers Park Presbyterian Church! The word that reverberates as we pray for the year ahead is **JOY** – joy in a return to normal, joy in rhythms of fellowship and worship together, joy in serving God and neighbor here in Charlotte, joy in following Jesus and the Jesus way of life. We discover JOY as we join each other, and God, in God’s transforming work in our lives and our world.



Will you join us with joy for the following:

- On Sunday, August 28th during worship (9 a.m. Contemporary, and 10:30 Sanctuary), as we bless teachers and students for the year and receive backpack tags with our theme verse.
- Beginning September 11th, **Faith Formation** will be from 9 a.m. to 9:45 and concurrent worship services will be at 10 a.m. **Nursery** will be available from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- We will begin the fall with faith formation from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on the playground and front lawn area. Afterwards, **Celebrate and Sanctuary services will begin at 10 a.m.** followed by a time of fellowship. Last year we enjoyed starting outside and enjoying the fresh air! We found this helpful to minimize the sharing of colds and coronavirus as kids return to classrooms. If there is rain, classes will meet in the D Building.
- **Parents** often wonder “what is the best option for us during Sunday School?” Some opportunities include:
 - o Grab and go “faith formation” conversations cards from the racks in the Welcome Center.
 - o Join “The Gathering” with John Magnuson and James and Megan White on the A Hallway.
 - o Feel comfortable dropping into an adult education class and come-and-go as needed.
 - o Hold hands with your spouse and go for a kid-free walk and talk. Coffee is in the Welcome Center.
- During Faith Formation, we will learn about Jesus and his practices for faithful living through the “Follow Me” curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers told through Biblical stories.
- For information regarding **Young Families Playgroup, Sprouts, Mission Kids, Milestones** and other opportunities, please watch for emails and Connect updates for information and sign ups.
- **Milestone** dates are as follows: Kindergarten Worship (October 16th), First Grade Communion (October 2nd), Second Grade Prayer (November 13th), Third Grade Bible (January 22, 29, February 5, 12 and 26), Fourth Grade Stewardship (September 18th), Fifth Grade Faith and Sexuality (February 26). Watch for further details!
- Please watch for information from our new Director for Worship Arts, Mark Kemp, regarding music options.
- **VBS** dates for 2023 are Monday, June 12th through Thursday, June 15th. Our theme is “STELLAR!” and we will learn about shining Christ’s light throughout the universe. Registration will be in February. Watch for details.

At this time of year, we like to confirm our rosters. If you have a child in T-K, please contact Jess our administrator. If someone you know is not receiving Children and Family emails (like “The Spark”) or snail mail, please let us know. Also, you can follow us on Instagram “mppcchildrenfamilies” and on Facebook “Children and Families at MPPC.”

Living into JOY this fall, we want to encourage our families to **jump back in with joy** to the rhythms of fellowship, faith formation, worship, and mission so together we can find JOY in God’s presence among us.

In Christ, Lisa Hickman and the Children and Family Ministry Team

**You make known to me
the path of life;
you will fill me with JOY
in your presence.**

Psalm 16:11