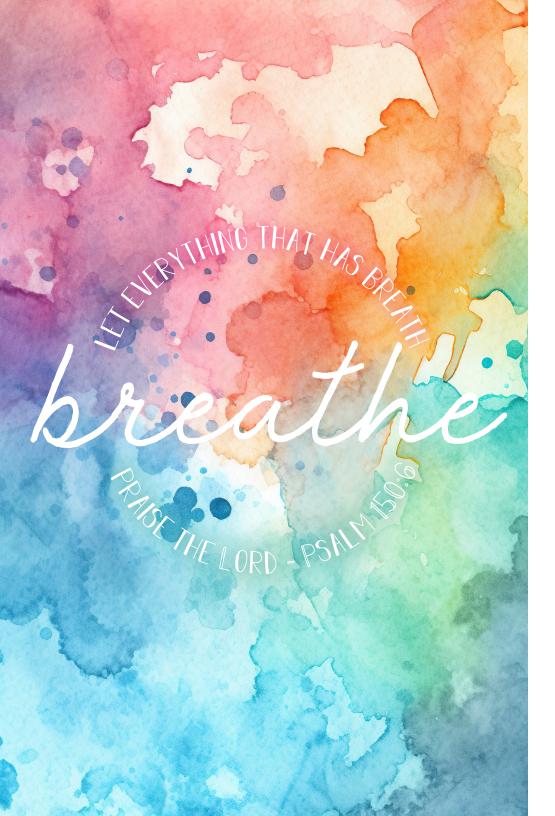


Children & Family

MINISTRIES 2024-2025





Dear Children and Families of Myers Park Pres,

As you shape your calendars and rhythms for the fall, we hope you take a deep breath! Consider adding opportunities for faith formation, outreach, and fellowship as the foundation for everything else.

The word that reverberates as we pray for the year ahead is "breathe." God's very name "Yahweh" is an inhale and an exhale. Try it now: breathe in "Yah..." and breathe out "weh...."

We hope this booklet will orient you to all things Children and Family Ministry (CFM). You can meet our team members, learn about all the ministries that are under the umbrella of CFM, and take a peek at our calendar filled with many of activities through the year.

As we *BREATHE* together this year, we give thanks that God inspires us and rejuvenates us through scripture and service, through fellowship and faith formation. We join with the Psalmist, "Let all who have breath praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6).

In Christ,

Lisa Hickman and the Children and Family Ministry Team



Lisa HickmanAssociate Pastor for Children and Their Families



Brianna Bamburg
Children's Ministry
Coordinator



Wyndham Merrill *Administrative Assistant for Children, Youth, and Their Families*

CFM COUNCIL

The Children and Family Ministry Council is led by one of the elders of our Session and is composed of leaders across our ministry areas. Alongside this council, we work together to plan faith formation, fellowship, opportunities for outreach, Vacation Bible School, and Milestone events.

We are part of a threefold faith formation team at MPPC with **Michelle Thomas Bush**, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families, and **John Magnuson**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship.

CFM Lay Leadership



Barbara Atkins Elder, CFM Chair



Alston Van Dyke *Elder, CFM Vice Chair*



Caitlyn Anderson *Youth Elder*



Bethany McCoy *Baby Ministry*



Gretchen Sullivan *Faith Formation - Home*



Taylor White *Faith Formation - Home*



Lindley Lacey Good News Crew



Jan Scott Farmer Good News Crew



Amy Snead *Milestones & Montreat*



Susan Davidson CT Anderson
Milestones Milestones



Millie Cort Montreat



Elizabeth Covington *Young Families*



Liz Leeolou *Young Families*



Bethany Wheeler Sprouts



Gail Fischer Sprouts & Good News Crew



Emily Moody *Montreat*



Ann McBride *Mental Health*



Sarah Craig Haverland Mental Health



Adelaide Spizer Tapestry



Elizabeth Kirkland Mission Kids



Tanner Sanders *Mission Kids*



Bethany Michael Faith Formation -Church



Sarah Fricke *Faith Formation - Church*



Marjorie Armstrong Vacation Bible School 2025



Rebecca McPhail Vacation Bible School 2025



Bryn Miles *Worship Bags*

NURSERY MINISTRY

Sundays | 8:45-11:15 a.m. | 0-4 Years



Each Sunday, our dedicated team awaits to provide an environment tailored specifically for your little ones. As you step into the B Hallway, you'll discover a place where every child is cherished and celebrated.

A typical morning in the nursery includes free play, snacks, music, crafts, and playground time. From interactive play to engaging activities, we strive to create a space where children can learn, grow, and forge meaningful connections with both their peers and caring adults.

Our program is comprised of four classrooms:

- B-101 Infants (for children who aren't yet walking well)
- B-103 Toddlers (for children who are walking confidently)
- **B-104** 2s
- **B-106** 3s and 4s

Our classrooms are fully equipped with age-appropriate resources, so we only ask that you bring a small diaper bag or book bag with your child's essentials.

Whether it'll be your first time joining us or you're returning to deepen your connection, we are excited to build lasting relationships and foster a sense of belonging within our church family. Join us this Sunday and experience the warmth and hospitality that defines our nursery program—a place where every child is welcomed, valued, and loved.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



Children are an important part of our worshiping community at MPPC, where we value one another's perspectives and learn from each other's wisdom, including children!

There are several opportunities for children to be a part of worship leadership:

- 1st Graders can serve as communion bread carries on the first Sunday of each month when we celebrate communion in the Sanctuary and Oxford Hall.
- **2nd Graders** are invited to sign up as greeters.
- 3rd Graders are invited to sign up to be a Bible carrier in the Sanctuary processional.
- 4th Graders are invited to serve alongside our usher teams in the Sanctuary and Oxford Hall.
- **5th Graders** can be acolytes in the Sanctuary, leading the processional behind the cross, and bringing in the light of Christ to worship.

For more information or to sign up, contact Bri at bbamberg@myersparkpres.org.

Worship Bags

Worship Bags are intended to keep children engaged during worship. These bags are filled with a children's bulletin, a Bible story book, blank paper and crayons for art, a sensory toy, and a fine motor activity. You can find these bags in the Narthex and just inside the doors to Oxford Hall.



FAITH FORMATION

At Church

Sundays | 9-9:45 a.m. | 3 Years - 5th Grade



We are grateful to an amazing team of volunteers who nurture our children during Faith Formation Hour. There are opportunities to teach, support, or float to connect in ways big or small to this ministry of teaching and care.

Our focus this year is on the back-to-basic stories of the Bible in the Old and New Testament. The stories will loosely follow our worship themes through the year.

Come join the fun – as we tell Bible stories in legos and crafts, share our highs and lows in prayer concerns, and learn about the great big love of God.

We will meet in these rooms:

• **3 & 4 Year-Olds:** B106

• **TK/K:** B102

1st Grade: B006

2nd & 3rd Grades: B0034th & 5th Grades: B004

FAITH FORMATION

At Home



Faith Formation at Home (FFAH) is a team that creates and assembles activities that allow for families of all ages to grow in their faith together. We work with the church as a team to create a fun, seasonal take-home packet that helps sermons become kid-friendly, and/or add a faith-based element to upcoming holidays.

From providing glow sticks at Halloween that illuminate a pumpkin, reminding us that God's love will light the way, to packaging supplies to bake Resurrection Rolls as a family on Easter morning, the FFAH committee brainstorms and brings these ideas to life for our church family!

We love seeing our children engage in ongoing learning and faith development in their households. We believe this strengthens the ties of faith across all areas of a child's life.

BABY MINISTRY



The Children & Family Ministry team finds great joy in collaborating with you as your child grows in body, mind, and spirit.

Our Baby Ministry team, alongside the baptism of your child, is the first point of connection. Members of the team reach out to parents after the arrival of a child to deliver a few symbols of embrace from the church.

Members of our mental health team are also beginning to make phone calls of outreach and care to new moms encouraging them during this time of shifting hormones and great transition.

Baptisms

One of the first and most wonderful questions we are asked is how to sign up for your child's baptism. Each family will take a baptism class prior to your child's baptismal date to discuss both the theology of baptism as well as the practical elements of the event. For more information about how to sign up and what to expect, please visit myersparkpres.org/baptisms.

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY



Our Young Families Ministry is designed to welcome and support new members and those in the season of becoming new parents to the fellowship of the church.

We offer once a month playgroups, Mom's and Dad's Nights Out, meet and greet events on the playground for families, and other events. Seasonal events include a Halloween costume party and Advent Lights.

These events are low-key and usually involve playground time and a popsicle. Parents appreciate these moments to get to know other young families in the life of the church.

Splash and Play is a summer program where we connect with our children in the great outdoors! We read themed stories, learn about healthy habits, and fellowship together. We meet one morning a month on the church playground.

SPROUTS

4 Years - 2nd Grade



Sprout Outreach connects children (4 years through 2nd Grade) and their families to local Charlotte neighbors and mission partners. Sprout Outreach is designed to be a first experience in serving God and neighbor in the Charlotte community and beyond.

Our Partners

Sprouts and Mission Kids are proud to partner with many of our Outreach Partners, including:

- Beds for Kids
- Billingsville Cotswold Elementary
- Crisis Assistance Ministry
- CrossRoads
- Furnish for Good
- Hope Haven

- I Am 24/7
- Nourish Up
- Room in the Inn
- Roof Above
- The Learning Collaborative
- The Welcome Ministry

MISSION KIDS

3rd - 5th Grade



Mission Kids is a great opportunity for our older elementary school kids to make strides in leadership and service. Our hope is they will:

- Expand their sense of **community** beyond their church, home, and school;
- Kindle their curiosity about societal issues and injustices;
- Encourage meaningful **connections** as they step out in faith to serve God and neighbor;
- Cultivate cheerful hearts for service.

We are grateful for a great team of parents who support and guide our older elementary school kids as they learn what it means to serve Christ in our community. This group lays the foundation for Middle School and High School mission and outreach opportunities.

MILESTONES



At MPPC, we believe it is important to mark significant moments in our spiritual growth and development. Those moments matter in our life together as we share foundational aspects of our faith and faith practices with our children.

In a world that hungers for meaning and deeper connection, marking a milestone is an opporunity to signify a particular point in time in recognition of an important transition or life event. Learning about the elements of our faith, worship, and connection to God is certainly worth marking and celebrating!

Our Milestones are:

Kindergarten: Worship1st Grade: Sacraments2nd Grade: Prayer

3rd Grade: Bible

• 4th Grade: Stewardship

5th Grade: Faith and Sexuality

WORSHIP Kindergarten Milestone

October 13, 2024 | 9 a.m. | B205



The Kindergarten Worship milestone is intended to equip our 5 year-olds a step beyond their worship bags to have their eyes and hearts open to worship.

We learn about the big movements of worship: we gather as a church family, we hear God's words in scripture and song, we share prayers and communion and our offerings, and we are sent into the world to love God's people.

In this milestone, children receive an art bag with the hope they can draw, write, color, doodle on worship bulletins provided in the worship bags to take note of worship each day.

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of kindergarteners will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

SACRAMENTS

1st Grade Milestone

Communion: September 15, 2024 | 9 a.m. | B205 Baptism: September 22, 2024 | 9 a.m. | B205



The 1st Grade Milestone is centered on the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. In this two-session workshop, our children are reminded that sacraments are visible signs of an invisible God. In the water of Baptism, in the bread and juice of Communion, we remember God's love for us as individuals and as a community.

Children at this age are eager to engage in purposeful and meaningful actions in the faith community. We love their eyes wide open to learning more about these beautiful acts of worship and how we can remember the love of Jesus in all of them.

Our 1st graders are invited to carry in the communion bread to the table in the Sanctuary or Oxford Hall as an act of worship. Pastors meet the child at the table, and they say together "This is the bread of life! Thanks be to God!"

Please note there is also a Baptism Class for Parents on September 22 at 9 a.m.

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 1st graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

PRAYER 2nd Grade Milestone

April 6, 2025 | 9 a.m. | B205



The 2nd Grade Milestone is focused on prayer. We love hosting a prayer workshop for this session where children and their parents can experience different types of prayers.

You are invited to come learn about prayer labyrinths, pray for forgiveness, pray for our neighbors around the world, pray in color, explore the Lord's Prayer, and take home ideas for praying as a family.

Our leadership in worship for 2nd graders is to serve as greeters. This helps us remember everyone who comes to worship comes with a prayer on their heart and mind and so we greet them with love, respect, and welcome.

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 2nd graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

BIBLE 3rd Grade Milestone

Classes Listed Below





The 3rd Grade Milestone is a six-week course concluding with a Bible presentation. Together, we learn the books of the Bible, the large sections and themes of the Bible, and how to find a Bible verse. We learn about how Bibles came to be made and how they developed through the years. We learn about different translations of the Bible. And we learn different ways to explore, read, and engage scripture through journaling, note-taking, and reading. A favorite of the class is learning the Books of the Bible song and soon you will find yourself singing this song in your sleep!

For worship, 3rd graders are invited to be Bible carriers in the Sanctuary joining the choir procession to bring the Bible into worship each Sunday.

Classes: Sundays, January 26 - March 2, 2025 | 9 a.m. | B205

Parent Classes: Sundays, February 19 & March 2, 2025 | 9 a.m. | B208

Presentation: Sunday, March 9, 2025 | 9 a.m. | Sanctuary

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 3rd graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

STEWARDSHIP 4th Grade Milestone

November 17, 2024 | 9 a.m. | B205





The 4th Grade focus is Stewardship. It is important for children to recognize that we are richly blessed with time, talents, and treasure. In turn, we can share our blessings with others as acts of good stewardship. This is one of our favorite milestones!

4th graders and their parents are also encouraged to sign up to serve as ushers as an act of worship. An important thing to remember in this act of service for the church is the importance of this action. Collecting resources to share provides great blessings to the church and to our neighbors where we serve God together.

4th graders take seriously their commitment to stewardship when they take a first look at pledge cards. Sometimes their response to that invitation challenges our own!

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 4th graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

FAITH & SEXUALITY

5th Grade Milestone

February 2, 2025 | 1-5 p.m. | Oxford Hall



Our 5th Grade Milestone focuses on faith and sexuality. 5th graders are learning about human sexuality both from their peers and from various classes in school. It is important that discussion of this subject also take place in the church.

Our hope for this Milestone is threefold. First, to open up lines of communication so you, as parents, will have a greater opportunity to talk about this subject with your child as needed. Second, to equip our young people with a framework for sexuality within God's creation and hope for human beings. And third, to encourage our young people to support each other through the ups and downs of puberty.

This Milestone event is an opportunity to help open up communication around important topics as your child looks towards Middle School and all the changes that are coming. Our goal is to help you set these and future conversations around puberty, adolescence, and sexuality within the context of faith, and learn to share your values as you talk about these topics with your child.

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 5th graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION

5th Grade

April 6, 2025 | 11:15 a.m. | TBD



As our 5th graders approach Middle School, we are grateful for the ministry of Allison Billings and Michelle Thomas-Bush who aid in that transition.

Beginning with the Faith and Sexuality Milestone, and continuing that Spring with opportunities to connect, the Middle School Ministry team is intentional about building bridges from Children and Family Ministries into the Youth Group programs at Myers Park Presbyterian.

Starting May 1, 5th graders are considered part of Youth Ministry. They're invited to all Youth summer activities and can participate in things like CROSS and Quest for the Best.

A few weeks prior to this milestone, parents of 5th graders will receive an email with more information. If you haven't heard from us, please reach out!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ARTS



WAMP

Wednesday Evenings | 1st-2nd Grades & 3rd-5th Grades

Worship Arts at Myers Park (WAMP) explores all the ways we can worship through singing, percussion, art, and drama while preparing to lead in worship throughout the year. Class will be followed by an optional family dinner.

Music & Movement

Wednesday Evenings | 3 years - Kindergarten

Grow in God's grace as we sing, play, dance, move, and discover music as a joyful means of expression!

WAMP Camp

August 3-7, 2025 | 6 years to rising 1st-6th graders

A week of singing, dancing, crafts, and worship ending with a performance. This camp experience will start kids off on a creative journey in music and art that will last a lifetime.

For more information about any of the above, visit myersparkpres.org/music.

TAPESTRY



Tapestry serves tweens, teens, and young adults with special needs. We aim to gather monthly throughout the school year, either at the church or out in the community. Movies, bowling, swimming, dining at restaurants together, or celebrating special holidays with parties and dancing are a few of our favorite things!

Each August, we hold Tapestry Camp, where we focus on service projects, seasonal crafts, music, outings around town, and much more. Our time together always fuels our friendships and fellowship! Connecting regularly keeps these special relationships strong and social lives meaningful.

Adelaide Spizer, a church member with a heart for special education, has long nurtured and supported this group. We are incredibly grateful for her leadership. Many other volunteers join in to love and have fun with this community of Christ!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 16-19, 2025 | 3 years - Rising 5th Graders



Our theme for 2025 will be "TRUE NORTH: Letting Jesus Be Your Guide in a Wild World!" $\,$

Our younger campers learn stories from the Bible through music, recreation, story-telling, and service projects. Mission Kids, our 4th and 5th graders, serve the community through various outreach projects. Mission Kids will travel off-campus.

An incredible team of volunteers including moms, dads, grandparents, church friends, and High School Youth offer leadership. An important part of the culture for Vacation Bible School is to create meaningful community and engagement for the adults as well.

Registration will open in February 2025.

For more information, visit **myersparkpres.org/events**.













ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

At Montreat

October 18-20, 2024 | Montreat, NC



In October of "even" years, we enjoy an All-Church Retreat at Montreat.

Together, we enjoy all that fall offers with mountain hikes, paddle boats on Lake Susan, kickball games, scavenger hikes, outdoor crafts, and bonfires. We may even have a few surprises!

Our faith is formed during a two-hour program on Saturday morning and worship service on Sunday morning with communion. This year our theme is "Common Fire."

There are age appropriate activities during the two hours of structured programming for children who attend, and complimentary childcare for children preschool and under during that time.

Free time in the afternoon allows restorative rhythms of rock-hopping, exploring, napping, and, yes, watching football.

For more information and to register, check out **myersparkpres.org/events**.

ALL-CHURCH DAY RETREAT

At Anne Springs Close

Fall 2025 | Anne Close Springs Greenway, SC



In the fall of "odd" years, we host an afternoon mini-retreat at Anne Springs Close Greenway.

For those who have tough sport schedules, demanding calendars, or children too small to travel easily for a weekend, this afternoon is a wonderful way to connect and unwind.

We share in a fun-filled day of outdoor activities for all! Beginning with a service of worship, we then spend as much time as possible out in God's creation: picnicking, hiking, playing, biking, and participating in activities on the waterfront. Throughout the afternoon, there are opportunities for a fall hayride through the greenway.

Our families have discovered this to be a meaningful time to breathe deep, refresh, and be in the presence of God.

For more information and to register, check out myersparkpres.org/events.

THE WEEKDAY SCHOOL



The Weekday School nurtures children as they begin lives of worship, learning, compassion, and service supported, protected, and equipped by the Love of God and through the Ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

Our Weekday School community offers love, support, and friendship, assisting families in building a foundation of faith and knowledge in their children.

Our teachers, administrators, and clergy nurture our children to develop the skills, confidence, and love of learning to be successful in their future education. The Weekday School Board offers guidance for this educational endeavor.

Our Core Values:

- Building a strong faith foundation
- Practicing kindness and compassion
- Fostering a love of learning
- Providing a safe and warm environment
- Offering exemplary teaching through a developmentally appropriate playbased curriculum

For more information about the Weekday School, visit myersparkpres.org/wds.

Chapel and Godly Play



Every Wednesday, all 3s, 4s, and TK classes at the Weekday School participate in **Chapel** - a truly glorious 30 minutes of worship! After a welcoming song, children listen to a Bible story (acted out by a team of all-star parents). We then pray together and worship with singing and dancing. We close with a blessing. This simple liturgy is a special time of worship where each child has the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way.

All Weekday School children participate in **Godly Play** class where they hear stories about God's love and faithfulness. Children listen to stories from the Old and New Testament and wonder and talk together about God's "great big love." They then have time to play with the stories in meaningful and hands-on ways. We pray that during Godly Play, children begin to build a foundation of faith and a deep knowledge that they are loved by Jesus.

One of the beloved moments in Chapel is an opportunity to wear the blue and white striped, with red trim, "Jesus robe." For a moment adult leaders get to show up with the heart of Jesus in the Bible stories.



2024-2025 CALENDAR

SEPTE	SEPTEMBER 2024			
8	Faith Formation Kick-Off	9 a.m.	B Building	
	1st Grade Milestone: Communion	9 a.m.	B205	
15	Young Families Kick-Off Party	4-5 p.m.	Playground	
	Sprouts and Mission Kids: Rise Against Hunger	5-7 p.m.	TBD	
	1st Grade Milestone: Baptism	9 a.m.	B205	
22	Baptism Class for Parents	9 a.m.	TBD	
	Sprouts and Mission Kids: TLC Green Apple Gig	2-5 p.m.	Outreach Center	

остов	OCTOBER 2024			
6	Parent Mental Health Event	11:15 a.m.	A101	
О	Sprouts and Mission Kids: Global Missions Fair	11:15 a.m.	A105/107	
9	Mom's Night Out	7/7:30 p.m.	TBD	
13	Kindergarten Milestone: Worship	9 a.m.	B205	
16	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground	
18-20	All-Church Retreat		Montreat, NC	
27	Young Families Halloween Costume Party	4-5:30 p.m.	Playground	

NOVEN	NOVEMBER 2024			
6	Dad's Night Out	7 p.m.	TBD	
	4th Grade Milestone: Stewardship	9 a.m.	B205	
17	Sprouts and Mission Kids: RITI Blessing Bags	11:15 a.m.	B006	
	Faithful Expectations: Parenting Conversation	11:15 a.m.	TBD	
20	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground	

DECEM	BER 2024		
4	Kindergarten "Good News!" Night	TBD	Oxford Hall
11	WDS Christmas Chapel	TBD	Sanctuary
	Sprouts: Snack Bag Event	TBD	TBD
15	Mission Kids: Promising Pages	TBD	TBD
	Advent Lights	4-7 p.m.	Outreach Center

JANUARY 2025			
12	Sprouts and Mission Kids: Sandwich Making	11:15 a.m.	Welcome Center
15	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground
26	3rd Grade Milestone: Bible - Class 1	9 a.m.	B205

FEBRUARY 2025				
2	3rd Grade Milestone: Bible - Class 2	9 a.m.	B205	
	5th Grade Milestone: Faith & Sexuality	1-5 p.m.	Oxford Hall	
5	Mom's Night Out	7/7:30 p.m.	TBD	
9	3rd Grade Milestone: Bible - Class 3	9 a.m.	B205	
9	Sprouts and Mission Kids: Prayer Blankets	11:15 a.m.	B006	
19	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground	
23	3rd Grade Milestone: Bible - Class 4	9 a.m.	B205	
23	Bible 101 Class for Parents	9 a.m.	B208	

MARCH 2025			
2	3rd Grade Milestone: Bible - Class 5	9 a.m.	B205
	Bible 101 Class for Parents	9 a.m.	B208
9	3rd Grade Bible Presentation	9 a.m.	Sanctuary
12	Dad's Night Out	7 p.m.	TBD
19	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground
30	Mission Kids: Poverty Simulation	TBD	TBD

APRIL 2025			
c	Second Grade Milestone: Prayer	9 a.m.	B205
O	5th Grade Middle School Transition Lunch	11:15 a.m.	TBD
13	Palm Sunday - Parade and Coat Drive	10 a.m.	Sanctuary, Oxford Hall
23	Young Families Playgroup	4:30 p.m.	Playground

MAY 2025			
4	Sprouts and Mission Kids: Habitat Homes Event	11:15 a.m.	TBD
7	WDS Chapel Sing	9:30 a.m.	TBD
18	Final Sunday of Faith Formation	9 a.m.	B Building
10	End of Year Popsicle Party	4-5:30 p.m.	Playground

JUNE 2	025		
9	Splash and Play	9:30 a.m.	Playground
16-19	VBS Week		Churchwide

Find the latest dates, times, and locations at **myersparkpres.org/children** or subscribe to Connect (see back for details).



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Email

Visit myersparkpres.org/subscribe to get on either of these lists (or more)!

 The Weekly "Spark" (Sharing Prayers About Raising Kids) - A weekly email curated by Lisa Hickman

· Connect - MPPC's Weekly Newsletter

To receive age-specific emails from CFM, please email **cfm@myersparkpres.org** and we will confirm we have your child's age listed correctly.

Administrative Needs: wmerrill@myersparkpres.org

cfm@myersparkpres.org

Program Needs: bbamberg@myersparkpres.org Pastoral Needs: lhickman@myersparkpres.org

Instagram

@mppcchildrenfamilies

Phone

Main Church Number: 704-376-3695
Ask to be connected to Lisa Hickman



MYERSPARKPRES.ORG/CHILDREN



Myers Park