

a place for you AND your children

each Sunday morning at
8:30am and 11:00am



inquisitive. inclusive. intentional. intimate. inspiring.
www.evangelicalucc.org
a church for you AND your questions

Worship

We love children, babies, and teens and we welcome all ages to share worship with us.

Activity folders (available in the Narthex) allow children of all ages to respond creatively to worship.

A story time (Chancel Steps) is offered at both worship services.

A playtime for preschool age children is offered after the Chancel Steps at the 11:00 a.m. service.

We respect that each child is unique and no single program fits all children. We strive to welcome all ages within our worship experience but also understand that some children are most comfortable in other settings. Professional childcare is available throughout the morning for those who prefer.

We also celebrate a Church School program (beginning with 3 year olds!), a Children's Choir, a Youth Band, and a Youth Fellowship program.



Children and Worship



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We need children to worship with us

Children bring unique gifts of wonder, excitement, and creativity that can make worship more meaningful for all.

Children have important things to teach us about God. Children worship with each new discovery in their lives. Reverence, adoration, respect, love, awe, and praise come naturally to children.

Children give us the gift of trust and a fresh point of view; adults can share the gift of acceptance, experience, and the wisdom of the Church through the ages.

When a child is baptized, the parents and the adults in the congregation promise to be active in nurturing that child's faith. We are called to nurture our children in their faith, and we will be nurtured by them in return.

Worship is a celebration of belonging. By participating in worship, children learn they belong to Christ and are welcome in Christ's church. What better way for children to learn about their faith than to be a part of a community that laughs together, cries together, struggles together, and worships together.

Children understand and share ritual

Most children understand routine and enjoy ritual. Parents can help children prepare for worship services by...

- having times of prayer and silence at home before meals and at bedtime
- talking about your own special memories of worship services
- practicing the responses that are used in worship each week
- helping children get to know their place of worship by exploring the sanctuary when it is empty
- borrowing a hymnal from church, or buying your own family hymnal and using it during family devotions
- creating a Saturday evening ritual: choosing clothes to wear to church; gathering money for offering; packing a "Sunday bag" with Bible and other service books, soft toys, books, drawing materials, snacks
- planning enough time on Sunday morning to eat a good breakfast and prepare for church



Following Jesus' example, we gather as a community to "worship, learn, and serve." This practice is graphically represented by the Seasons of the Spirit logo as the blue wind moves among us (worship), the green leaf grows (learn), and the brown hand reaches outward (serve).

Hints for Parents & Caregivers

The very young child comes with...

- a growing curiosity about everything
- lots of energy
- a rather limited attention span

You can help your child by...

- sitting near the front of the church so your child can see clearly
- picking up activity pages and crayons at the door
- bringing books, soft toys, or drawing materials
- bringing a snack of finger food
- removing your child's shoes so they can move around quietly
- answering any questions in a quiet whisper

The school-aged child comes with...

- a greater capacity for attentive listening
- an increasing ability to read
- an increasing ability to remember and memorize information

You can help your child by...

- arriving in time so that you can sit together as a family, and being open to where your child wants to sit
- making sure your child has a name tag
- helping your child learn the prayer that Jesus taught and other parts of the worship service
- reviewing the order of service, especially those parts where the congregation responds by speaking or singing
- answering any questions in a quiet voice
- picking up drawing materials
- talking about the worship service afterwards and sharing experiences