

Other Opportunities

Family Events

We offer a number of family events here at Harbor View. Yearly events such as our oyster roast, chili cook-off, and silent auction are wonderful times for kids and parents alike. In addition we are looking at holding our second annual community carnival this coming spring which is full of great family fun like bounce houses, face painting, balloon animals, and carnival food.

Mile Markers

Our Mile Marker program is for all ages, but has a number specifically for children. These mile markers celebrate developmental achievements by connecting them with moments of faith formation through education and worship.

Outreach

While much of our weekly outreach efforts have a minimum age requirement to go to, we encourage children and families to participate through special offerings, collections, and educational events. We want our children to grow up with a passion to love and care for all whom God created.

Youth

Once our children reach 6th grade they enter our youth program. Please see the Youth brochure for more information

For Parents

We realize that for all we do for children here at HVPC, most of their time is spent at home. For that reason we offer special Sunday School classes, Education programs, and resources for parents as we work to fulfill our baptismal promises for children together.



Harbor View Presbyterian Church

Let Them Come

Children's Opportunities At Harbor View



Harbor View Presbyterian Church

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Children at Harbor View

Education

Here at Harbor View we view all we do as part of our Christian Education. It is church life that truly helps us grow in faith, and find our way in this world. Thus it is important to us to include our Children in all the opportunities we can here with the church.

Part of maturing in the faith though is learning about the stories of scripture and about our faith traditions. This is done mainly through our formal education programs.

Sunday School for Children

Each Sunday morning we hold children's classes from age 2 through 5th grade. These classes are broken up into age groups with curriculum specifically selected for that groups developmental stage. We use *We Believe*, a curriculum created specifically for Presbyterians by Presbyterians. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith. *We Believe* tells the stories of our faith in a variety of ways to allow for different learning styles. This curriculum helps all participants develop a common understanding of how we as Presbyterians understand the Word of God and apply that understanding in our daily lives.

On some occasions we also hold special classes on certain aspects of the faith. These include classes focused on Worship, the Sacraments, Outreach, and Reading the Bible. These classes are usually created and led by our Director of Educational Ministries.



Vacation Bible School

Each summer we hold a week long Vacation Bible School program. This program is a wonderful time of learning and fun. Children meet together for worship, and then visit a number of stations throughout the church such as Bible Storytelling, Crafts, Music, and Recreation before coming back to praise God together before the evening ends. This year's program is called *Water U Doin'?* And promises to be a joy for all involved.

Worship

We offer a number of ways for children to get involved in worship. We feel it is important that children are included in worship and encourage families to join us together each Sunday in this way.

Children's Choir

Dr. Gary Hill leads our Children's Choir Program for Age 4 through 5th Grade. During the school year they meet each Sunday from 4 to 4:45 to rehearse and prepare to sing on various Sunday mornings. This is a wonderful space for children to grow in their love of music while praising God.



Worship Bags

Each week for worship in both services there are "Worship Bags" available. These denim bags hang in the narthex outside the sanctuary for children to pick up and use in worship. These bags include activities, stories, and other things to help connect children with parts of worship which are beyond their attention span. They are not a replacement for worship, and we hope children participate as fully as they are able in the service.

Children's Message

During our 11am service we include a children's message each week before the sermon. Children are welcome to come join the leader each week on the front steps as a message is delivered specifically for them.

Extended Session

Following the Children's Message at our 11am service we offer Extended Session for those children between nursery age and 2nd grade. This is a time where children will have a lesson presented based on the Lectionary for the day, as well as have a snack and work on preparation to fully join the worshipping community on a weekly basis.

Children in Worship

We truly believe that children are to be included fully in the life of the church. So not only do we encourage children to participate in worship, we also like to encourage them to take on leadership roles. This may be as a greeter, an usher, offering a prayer or welcome, or helping to lead music. Children are part of our community fully, and we welcome them to worship fully together with us.