

Our church family encourages and welcomes families to worship together. It affirms that each person is a unique gift from God. It affirms that God's children are all created in His image.

Our church family affirms the call of Christ upon the hearts of all God's people, from the youngest to the oldest. It affirms an incorporation process whereby the stories and life experiences of faith in Christ are passed on from one generation to another. Therefore, this church family is committed to telling its children of the love of Jesus Christ, the cost of discipleship, and the sharing of His faith in His Father who gives to all the salvation by grace.

Our church family takes very seriously its Baptismal vows to raise up the generations of God's people.



**“Children...  
for to such belongs the kingdom of  
heaven.”**  
(Matt. 19:14)

**Worship Hour**  
**Regular: 10:45 A.M.**  
**Summer: 10:00 A.M.**

## **Children's Ministry**

Following the Children's Ministry part in the worship service, children from pre-kindergarten through sixth grades are invited to adjourn to their respective classroom for the morning's Sunday School Ministry program. Parents are encouraged to meet up with children following the worship hour.

## **Nursery**

(Birth to Age 4)

Mrs. Marchetti or her associate will be offering a Christ-centered program for these children in the Nursery during the worship hour following the Children's Ministry.

## **Staff**

Our Christian Education Committee's loving enablers are: Ms. Downey, Mrs. Downey, Mrs. Kolenda, Mr. Heath, Ms. Bittner, Mrs. Widman, Dr. Walkup.

***The Knoxville United Church***  
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**God's Gift of a Child**  
**(His Miracle of Love**  
**&**  
**Our Little Witnesses)**



## **Prayer**

Almighty God, in your compassion and by your love we are blessed with children through the miracle of birth and through the process of maturation. May we in our spiritual pilgrimage greet each of your sons and daughters with joy, unfettered praise, and unconditional positive regard. May we express our growing and abiding faith in your Son, our Lord and Savior, by surrounding our children with an assurance of faith that will afford them a haven and a refuge. May we be transparent to our faith so that they will come to likewise want to be your disciples and confess the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Incorporating Our Children In Worship

(A Gentler, More Caring, Process)

- Before entering the sanctuary, a bathroom stop might be advisable.
- Come early into the sanctuary so as to settle the restless spirits and to encourage a time of family meditation.
- Introduce your children to those within range of your seat.
- Contemplatively peruse the bulletin with your children, locating the hymns, reciting the unison prayers, and reviewing the concerns of the church.
- Share the hymnal and Bible at their eye level. Trace the words being sung or read with your finger so that they can follow.
- Smile and pat your children.
- It's okay to be inquisitive. Compassionately answer questions.
- Encourage your children to individually write their names in the guest book.
- Encourage your children to participate in the offering by placing a prayer card, message or contribution in it.
- Whisper words of instruction and correction. Children respond great to a soft, loving, and compassionate voice.
- It is normal, and to be expected, when a child is restless, crying, or needs attention. In a relaxed manner you can take your child to the nursery and return when all is at your comfort level and the comfort level of your child.
- If hesitant, go with your children to the front of the sanctuary for the children's sermon.



### For Parents At Home

*(Helpful Suggestions)*

- Daily reaffirm your discipleship to Christ.
- Daily offer a prayer at mealtimes
- Love unconditionally.
- Love the child, and lovingly redirect the childish behavior.
- Have a weekly Bible verse for all to memorize.
- Teach your children the:
  - Lord's Prayer
  - Doxology (even if you sing off key)
  - Apostle's Creed (see bulletin)
- Read the words to the previous Sunday's hymn and discuss their meaning.
- Have a Bible story-time about the unfolding of God's grace, correction and love.
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**"...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."** (Joshua 24:15b)

## Baptismal Vow By Congregation

When children are administered the Sacrament of Baptism, you, as being part of the congregation, are asked to affirm the following question:

**"Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the people of the church, promise to tell this child the good news of the gospel, to help him/her know all that Christ commands, and, by your fellowship, to strengthen his/her family ties with the household of God? If so, answer 'We do.'"**

Your teaching is ninety percent through your emotive and transparent actions of love, embrace, forgiveness, forbearance, tolerance, and non-verbal expressions of your faith. What you say and what you do, for a child, need to be in concert with your expressed faith, not in contradiction of it. Children will replicate the intent behind your words.

Therefore:

- **Let the joy of Christ be expressed facially and vocally.**
- **Greet the children by name with the words "You are a child of God, and so am I."**
- **Have patience with their growing process affirming a mutually of growing as children of God.**