



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH

awakening a new generation to life in Christ

Children & Worship - What we do

To begin, the children come into a special worship space on the third floor above the chapel, to a storyteller waiting to greet them. They sit in a circle, in front of shelves of bible stories made just for them, with all materials at their height. Everything in this special place is accessible to the children. This special coming together of the children follows the first order of worship which is the gathering of God's people to hear God's word.

Next, they will hear the word proclaimed through a bible story told with multi-sensory materials that children with all different learning styles can value and enjoy. As the story is finished the children are invited to enter into a time of wonder about the story. They are asked "wondering questions" to help them dive deeper into the meaning of the story and to listen for God's still voice that is found there. These questions might sound like, "I wonder if the Good Shepherd's sheep have names?" Or, "I wonder what it was like to be in the ark for forty days...I wonder if Noah knew that God was with him?"

Third, just as in "big" worship the children will respond to the word. In "big" worship we often respond through prayer, song, offering, the Lord's Supper, commissioning, and celebrating baptisms. The children have the chance to respond to the Word in a myriad of ways as well. Some of these ways include telling their own story or the story they just heard, using art and craft materials, or building with materials such as Play-doh.

As they leave the worship center, the children will participate in the last order of worship which is the sending out of God's people into the world. Each child will be given a special blessing as they leave to be God's disciples in their homes, schools, and activities.

