

*Children &  
Families*  
**WELCOME**

to  
**First Presbyterian Church**



*The First Presbyterian Church  
in the City of New York*  
12 West 12th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 675-6150  
Family Ministries Committee  
The Rev. Barbara E. Davis  
Minister of Christian Education  
[bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org)



**The Family Ministries  
Committee**

### **Is child care available during the worship service for babies and toddlers?**

Child care is offered every Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. worship service for children under age 3. Child care is provided by professional caregivers who are supported by parent volunteers. Parents are provided with vibrating pagers so that they can be contacted if their children need them. Sunday morning child care is provided on the third floor of the Mellin-Macnab Church House from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for those who wish to attend education programs or activities before or after the service at 11:00 a.m. Registration is ongoing and forms can be filled out on the third floor, in the lobby or by downloading the form from the website. Child care is occasionally offered for other special events.

### **May I bring my baby or toddler to the worship service?**

Your baby or toddler is welcome in the sanctuary during the worship service. We understand that it may be difficult or uncomfortable to leave a very small child in a child care room that is unfamiliar to them or to you or that it may be impractical to leave a nursing baby even for a relatively short interval. Babies often love the sights and sounds of the sanctuary, particularly the music. Worship is first a blessing to God, who values the presence and praise of children.

If, however, your child is feeling restless and you are unable to remain in your pew for the entire service, you are welcome to retreat to the narthex at the back of the sanctuary (or outside if it is nice weather). In addition, the parlor on the second floor of the Mellin-Macnab Church House has a video and sound system that broadcasts the entire service. The parlor is carpeted and has comfortable, upholstered chairs and couches. A changing table is nearby in the women's restroom. You are also, of course, always welcome to spend time in the

child care room with your child, where you will find age-appropriate toys and other parents and children.

### **Where can I change my baby?**

Changing tables are available in the church narthex lavatory at the back of the sanctuary (unisex) and in the women's restroom on the second floor of the Mellin-Macnab Church House.

### **Do you have a church school?**

Church school classes are offered on Sundays for preschool children through high school youth from mid-September through late May. We use a selection of curricula to provide the best learning experiences for each age group. All classes are focused around a Bible story or passage, the theme of which is developed through creative project-oriented activities that promote questioning and development of relationships.

Classes are held in the Mellin-Macnab Church House during the worship service. Children attend the worship service with their parents at 11:00 a.m., and at about 11:20 a.m. they leave the service after the Children's Prayer to go to church school. Teams of volunteer teachers lead the classes. Registration for all church school classes is ongoing. New students can be enrolled on the first floor of the Mellin-Macnab Church House on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at (212) 675-6150 during the week.

### **Do you have a youth group?**

In addition to church school, we also have youth group activities youth in grades 5 through 12. Youth in grades 5 through 12 and parents of 5th-8th graders are invited to attend Youth Service and Fellowship gatherings, which happen about once a month on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. High School Youth (7th-12th grade) meet one Sunday a month with the Minister of Education for a youth-centered worship service.

For details about our youth program contact the Rev. Barbara Davis at (212) 675-6150.

### **Do you have a children's music program?**

The Children's Music Program involves all children at First Church. 3- and 4-year-olds have music time as part of their Church School class. **5-Year-Olds and 1st Graders** have music time at 11:20 a.m. (immediately after leaving service) in the Assembly Hall. At 11:35 a.m. they will go up to their classes with their teachers. Parents should pick them up in their classrooms as soon as church is over. **2nd through 6th Graders** have music time from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. in the Assembly Hall. Parents of these children should pick them up in the Assembly Hall promptly at 12:45 p.m. The Children's Music Program includes opportunities for children to participate in Sunday morning worship services and at special musical events.

The Children's Music Program is led by Emily Scott, the Director of Children's and Youth Music. The main goal of the music program is to create a positive church music experience for all the children who attend First Church. If you have specific questions about the Children's Music Program, please call the church office at (212) 675-6150.

### **How can I meet other families with children?**

In addition to the above programs (all of which welcome parent volunteers), the Family Ministries Committee prepares and distributes an annual Family Events Calendar in the fall, listing all of the planned activities geared toward children and families for the upcoming year.

Please feel free to contact the Chair of the Family Ministries Committee, Heide Valero, or our Minister of Christian Education, The Rev. Barbara Davis at (212) 675-6150 or [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org) for more information or to find out how to get involved with Family Ministries at First Church.