People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18:15-16

Jesus surprised everyone by giving special attention to children. Some people thought Jesus was too busy to spend his time with children. Jesus showed them that children are just as important as anyone else to God.
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Message to Parents and Adults

We believe that children belong in worship. It is important for their spiritual formation and for the congregation’s spiritual formation as well. Participating with adults in worship helps children develop a sense of belonging to the community of Christ as a beloved child of God. Having children in worship encourages us to examine how we engage in worship, our faith, and with each other. They remind us that there isn’t a right way or one way to worship God and to be open to the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit. They remind us that God is present in the messiness of our lives, giving us opportunity to re-examine the meaning of sacred and holy. They provide us lots of opportunities to exercise patience, grace, and love and receive the same.

To help children, families and the congregation worship together we recommend reading our booklet, Children in Worship: Tips for Parents and the Congregation. Copies are available in the lobby.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Nursery and Toddler Care

The nursery and toddler classrooms are located on the first floor of the children’s wing. Childcare is provided for infants and children up to age 3 beginning at 9:15am on Sunday mornings.

Pre-K and 4 Year Olds

Our Pre-K classroom is located on the second floor of the children’s wing. Preschoolers are encouraged to participate in worship with their families and will be dismissed to their classroom following the Children’s Message.

Kindergarten through 5th Grade

K’s through 5th grade students also attend worship with their families and are also dismissed for their Power Station Sunday School classes following the Children’s Message.

Please see the map enclosed for class locations.

Activity clipboards for children remaining in the sanctuary for the entire worship service are available in the lobby. Please see an usher for assistance.
Hello Kids!

We welcome you here this morning! You belong to God’s family and are an important part of the church. We are glad to worship God with you!

What is worship?

Worship is honoring God, celebrating God’s greatness and power, and giving God our loyalty and love.

This morning we will worship God in many different ways, using at least four different actions: **listening, singing, praying, and giving.**

Throughout this booklet, we will explain different parts of our worship service. If you have a question, ask your parent, an adult like your Power Station Leader, or the pastor. They are eager to learn with you!
**Prelude**

A prelude is a fancy way of saying, “music that is played before worship begins.” Sometimes the prelude is played on the organ or piano and sometimes other instruments are included. Look over the worship bulletin to find out what will be happening in worship today. During the prelude you can listen to the music, enjoy the beautiful stained glass windows, and get your heart and mind focused on God.

**Call to Worship**

We hear words and scripture that invite us to begin worshiping God. Sometimes we say words together or sing the call to worship.

**Hymns and Songs**

We stand and sing praise to our God. When we sing with others worshiping God, we are sharing praise. The words to the songs are displayed on the large screen at the front of the sanctuary.

**Greeting One Another**

At the beginning of the worship service, we welcome everyone to our church. We say, “Good morning,” to people we know and introduce ourselves to those we have not met. We might say, “May the peace of God be with you.”

**Time With Children**

Children are invited to come sit on the front steps of the sanctuary for a special message. During this time, children will hear a part of God’s Big Story, answer questions, or share ideas. At the end of Time With Children, we pray and then quietly walk out of the sanctuary down the center aisle. We meet our leaders on the Geneva Patio and walk to our classes or return to sit in the pews with our families.
Announcements

A speaker shares information about upcoming events in the life of the church. If you have a praise report or prayer request you can fill out the Welcome Card in the bulletin, tear it out, and place it in the offering basket later in the service. We like to celebrate what God is doing in our lives and pray for one another!

Prayers for the Congregation and the World

A liturgist (worship leader) prays for the congregation, offering prayers of praise and adoration (love and respect), to God, confession (telling God the truth about the wrong things we’ve done), thanksgiving (appreciation for the ways God blesses and provides for us) and supplication (requests) for God to meet our needs and the needs of others and for his purpose in the world to be accomplished.

We pray for missionaries that serve nearby and around the world. We pray that all people everywhere will come to know and love God.

We often pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, which we refer to as “The Lord’s Prayer”:

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen
Offering Our Lives and Gifts

We give to God out of gratitude because God has given so much to us. Everything we have comes from God. God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others.

Our offerings support the work of the church—telling others the good news of Jesus. We gladly give our time, our talents (skills and abilities), and our treasure back to God. Together we pray God will use these gifts for his purposes in the world.

The choir usually sings a special song during this time. Listen carefully to the words, remembering all that God has given you. Place your offering in the basket and carefully pass it to the next person seated on your row.

Scripture Reading

God’s word is written in scriptures. Listen very carefully! Can you find today’s scripture reading in the Bible? The readings can be from the Old Testament, the New Testament or both.

Message

Through God’s Word the pastor helps us examine what God wants to say to us. We learn about God’s character, God’s actions in the world throughout history, God’s love for us, and how God wants us to live today as followers of his Son Jesus. You can bring a notebook to take notes or draw pictures of what you hear. Write down any questions you may have, words you don’t know, or ideas you would like to learn more about. What is God saying to you today? What do you want to say to God?

Hymn or Song

We stand and sing our last song preparing to go out on mission following Jesus, serving God and serving others.
**Benediction and Postlude**

At the end of worship, we stand and listen to the Benediction, which means “good word.” The “good word” is that God goes with us into the world to do his work. We listen to joyful music as we go. We go to love others just as God loves us.

**Special Parts of Worship:**

**Sacraments**

The word “sacrament” comes from a Latin term that means “mystery.” Baptism and communion are sacraments—“holy mysteries” that we do not and cannot fully understand (even as adults!) but through which we believe God’s invisible grace becomes visible to us. The sacraments of baptism and communion remind and promise us that God adopts us as his children and feeds us at his table.

Our church offers a Family Sacraments Class for children and parents to learn more about the sacraments together in preparation for a child’s participation. *(Contact the Children’s Ministry Office for more information.)*

**Baptism**

Through baptism, a baby, child or adult is reminded that they are a child of God. The pastor asks the person begin baptized (or parents of an infant being baptized) several questions about who their Savior and Lord is (Jesus) and if they promise to be a faithful follower of Jesus. The pastor asks the congregation to promise to help the person grow to know God’s love. Water is poured on the person’s head as the pastor says, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Sometimes a person is fully immersed in the water.
Communion

Communion, (also called The Lord’s Supper or Eucharist) is celebrated by Christian believers everywhere. We usually celebrate this special meal on the first Sunday of each month and other times throughout the year.

When a person is hungry, that person finds something to eat and feels satisfied. The food makes the person strong and healthy. A person also gets hungry in a different way, not in our stomach, but in our spirit—the thinking, feeling part of us deep inside. The good news is that Jesus fills our spiritual hunger. Communion is coming to Jesus’ table to be fed in our spirit. We come with family and friends who believe in him. At his table we eat and drink just as his disciples did on the night before Jesus died for us on the cross, and we are satisfied.

Communion is served in one of two ways—sometimes we remain seated and are served the cup and bread by passing plates down the pews. We call this way “traditional.” Other times, we use a method called “intinction.” We stand up row by row and walk to the front of the sanctuary. The pastor, elders, and deacons hold a loaf of bread and a cup of juice. Each person tears a piece of bread from the loaf and dips it into the cup and eats. The pastor, elder, or deacon says words like, “This is Christ’s body broken for you.” and “This is Christ’s blood shed for you.”
Confession and Assurance

We are not perfect. God knows that. We try to follow Jesus and do the right thing, but when we don’t we can talk to God about it—confess those wrong things we’ve done and ask God to forgive us. After saying we are sorry, we hear the good news that God forgives us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Jesus’ death and resurrection is our assurance. We can have confidence and trust that God has forgiven us! Thanks be to God!

When we say we believe in Jesus, God sends his Holy Spirit to help guide us to follow Jesus.

Creeds

When we celebrate communion we will often say or read together a statement of what Christians believe to be true about God and those who believe in him. An example of such statements is The Apostles’ Creed.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.
Additional faith programs for Children and Youth offered at FPCSM:

Kingdom Club—This exciting mid-week program for grade school-aged kids includes children’s choir, dinner, Bible lessons, crafts and lots of fun and friends!

Little Sprouts—This fun program especially for moms, dads, grandparents, caregivers and little ones (infants through Pre-K) meets Fridays from 9:30-11:30am in Geneva Hall.

Vacation Bible Camp—Our annual half-day, week long camp for kids 4-years-old through 5th grade graduates is always the highlight of the summer!

Kid’s Worship Adventure—Students learn what worship is and how to become worship leaders. Instrument instruction, drama and much more are a part of this half-day, week long camp.

Middle School & High School Youth Groups—Meet Thursday nights and provide the opportunity for students to explore their faith. Middle school youth group starts in Geneva Hall and goes from 6:00pm-7:30pm. High school starts in the Lighthouse and goes from 7:00-9:00pm. College-age students meet from 7:00-8:30pm. All three groups meet together in the Lighthouse from 7:00pm to 7:30pm for worship time with the youth band.

Confirmation Class—Discover more about your faith, learn about the church, and experience spiritual growth. Sunday Mornings November—April.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

White Papers:

Baptism from a Presbyterian Perspective by Rev. Shannon Pappas
Communion from a Presbyterian Perspective by Rev. Shannon Pappas

Books:

A Picture of God—3 in 1, Joanne Marxhausen, 1973 Concordia, St. Louis, Missouri

Classes:

Family Sacraments Class, Confirmation Class (Youth), Discover First Pres, CORE (Adults)

Brochures:

What We Believe About Faith and Children
Children in Worship: Tips for Parents and the Congregation