



EMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EMMANUEL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VISION:

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church is called to comprehensive redemption, gospel-centeredness, and conviction of place. It desires to be a community that is worshipful, intentional, and diverse; it also desires to be an outward looking community that is inviting and incarnational.¹ As part of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Children's Ministry's philosophy and vision align with the philosophy and vision of the church.

Additionally, we believe that children of believers are included in the Covenant of Grace – God's gracious and faithful salvation of His covenant people, and we are to fulfill our responsibility to tell the next generation the good news of Jesus and to train the next generation up in the way of the Lord.

Emmanuel Children's Ministry exists to glorify God, and we do so by:

- Assisting and training parents, who have the primary responsibility of raising their children in the training and instruction of the Lord;² parents are to help their children know God through worship, prayer, and evangelism.
- Building a community among our members and neighbors through fellowship and community.
- Teaching the children to follow Jesus in their lives, in their cities, and in the world.³

CORE VALUES:

- **Gospel-Centered:** We strive to make sure that all aspects of Emmanuel Children's Ministry are Gospel centered because "it is the power of God for salvation to everyone

¹ Young Lee, "Foundational Document: What We Are Called to Be."

² Ephesians 6:4 (Christian Standard Bible)

³ Psalm 78:4-7 (CSB)

who believes.”⁴ We want children to know “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”⁵

- **Community Building:** We are commanded to “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.”⁶ We are also called to “encourage one another and build each other up.”⁷ Children need community in order to build Christian friendships at a young age and follow Jesus’ commands, and we strive to provide places and opportunities for Emmanuel’s children.
- **Safe and Welcoming:** We are committed to provide a safe and secure environment for every child involved in any program or function affiliated with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. It is essential not only to keep our children physically safe, but also to ensure that everything we do better enables our children to be receptive to the Gospel and the teaching of God’s Word. Additionally, we desire to provide a welcoming environment for all children with different learning styles and abilities as we are called to welcome children in Jesus’ name.⁸

GOALS:

- Parents are the primary educator of their children, and we will equip parents so they have the tools available to train their children.
- Emmanuel’s children will grow in their knowledge of the Word of God and their understand of the Gospel.
- All families, new and old, will feel welcomed at Emmanuel sponsored events and will grow in community with one other.
- Emmanuel’s children will feel connected to other children as well as mentors and teachers.
- Families will serve together and show Jesus’ love to others in their lives, in their cities, and in the world.

MEANS:

- **Teaching** – We are to “tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed.”⁹ On Sunday mornings, children two years old through fifth grade attend Sunday School classes where they will grow in their

⁴ Romans 1:16 (CSB)

⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (CSB)

⁶ John 13:34 (CSB)

⁷ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (CSB)

⁸ Matthew 18:5 (CSB)

⁹ Psalm 78:4 (CSB)

knowledge of God. We are deliberate in choosing a curriculum that is Gospel-centered, has a high view of Scripture, and shows a snapshot of God in every single lesson. We do not teach Bible stories as merely moralistic examples, but as narratives that reveal Christ and our need for the Gospel.

We also offer a *Communicants Class* every spring for children whose parents have seen evidence of their child's faith in Christ and believe that their child is ready to receive communion. Children in the class will go through the basics of what we believe, and they will finish with a written testimony of their own faith. Upon completion of the class, children will become members of Emmanuel who are able to participate not only in communion, but in the life of the church.

- **Equipping Parents** – Children's Ministry supports Emmanuel parents by providing parenting seminars on relevant topics. We also provide weekly updates and information. We strive to provide additional learning opportunities for parents to further teach their children at home, especially for our summer lessons.
- **Community-Building Activities** – Children's Ministry strives to help children and families connect through events such as church-wide luncheons and gatherings, as well as age or class specific events. Regular attendance at Sunday School allows children to develop friendships with each other through structured activities and free play time. Family-wide events will augment these relationships by providing additional opportunities for connection.
- **Community-Service Activities** – Children's Ministry hosts service activities for families to serve together, especially with Emmanuel's supported partners. We want the children to follow Jesus' example, to go into places He cares about and to love the people He loves.

SPARKS

- **Vision:** Sparks exists as a pre-youth group for Emmanuel's older elementary children in third through fifth grade to meet regularly so they can continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God while also foster a sense of Christian community. We want them to not just believe in Jesus, but to become more Christ-like in their thoughts and actions. We desire for our older elementary children to be prepared for small group and deep teaching they will encounter in Emmanuel's Youth Group.
- **Means:** Children will meet monthly for a lesson where they will dig deeper into their understanding of the Gospel and their faith. Sparks will also have monthly non-teaching activities, both fun events to build friendships and service activities to love our community. Children in Sparks will learn through Scripture, community, and service.