

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Handbook 2008-2009




GROWING IN CHRIST...
LOVING IN CHRIST



"The fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

-Galatians 5:22-23

Children's Choir Philosophy and Goals



PHILOSOPHY—The congregation is the primary choir. All people are given a voice and need the opportunity to use it well. FUMC music ministry is designed to provide both regular and special opportunities for church members and those in the community without a church home, to express their faith through song. The very best time to begin to make a joyful noise is as a child. Thus, in worship services, our children's choirs take turns presenting selected and rehearsed anthems and hymns.

The concept of praise and service also includes spiritual development. Each rehearsal has the overall goal of Christian education. Music is our tool. In this regard, our work is different from school or community singing groups. FUMC children's choirs' focus is that of praising God and leading people in worship. All are welcome to find a place in the music program. As the noted hymnologist and composer/arranger Alice Parker has said, "Singing is a primary gift of God. It gives us a way of communicating with each other that words alone cannot come close to."

GOALS—Children are trained in the development of their musical skills in a graded program of reading music, ear training, vocal development, pitch acuity, etc. But more than this, they are developing a sense of Whose they are and what they can become within the context of the Christian faith. Through carefully chosen scriptural and poetic texts, the basic beliefs of the Christian faith are taught. (After all, we remember what we sing!) With each age group comes the attempt to teach responsibility, professionalism, and commitment through the discipline inherent in achieving high calibre performance standards, with a focus on process as equal in importance.

Children's Choir Procedures

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES—A choir is a team effort in every sense of the word, so an individual absence effects the whole group. Likewise, with our very limited rehearsal time, punctual presence at rehearsals and on choir Sundays is essential. The vocal warm-ups and listening exercises which are done at the beginning are crucial to a successful choral rehearsal. In a handbell choir, missing people means missing bells. Therefore, in the event of absence from vocal or bell choirs, please contact us. This may be done by calling the church office (543-1442, ext. 213).

ATTIRE ON SUNDAYS—Each choir wears robes for Sunday morning worship services. The Celebrate Choir (grades 3, 4, and 5) will wear robes throughout the entire service. They are responsible for hanging them on the appropriate hanger at the conclusion of the worship service. The younger choirs will wear their robes until they are dismissed for Children's Church. Our parent volunteers can assist the young children in taking off their robes after they leave the Sanctuary. Parents are asked to encourage the proper care of the robes and to assist where appropriate.

SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES—Choirs from grade 3 and older sit together for the entire worship service. Please do not request to be dismissed early. When individual choristers get up and leave after singing, it gives the impression that what we do is merely for show, or performance, instead of being an integral part of the experience of worship. When everyone remains in the service, leading the hymn singing, listening to the scripture, focusing on the sermon, participating in the prayers, our contribution is more meaningful to us, individually, as well. Please plan accordingly on the Sunday mornings your child sings.

Our younger children's choirs will sit together until the conclusion of the Children's Message. At that time, the children will leave the sanctuary to attend Children's Church or the nursery.

DROP OFF/PICK UP—Because your child's safety is important to us, we ask that a parent bring the child to the designated choir room and that you pick them up at the conclusion of the rehearsal.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS—Children involved with music often have parents who want to be as well! Please contact us (543-1442, ext. 213) if you would be willing to help with choir activities!

CARPOOLS—If you need assistance with getting your child to rehearsals or if you would be willing to help bring other children to choir, please contact us (543-1442, ext. 213).

CHURCH POLICY—Please take note that it is a church policy that there will be no flash photography during worship services.



Why Children's Choirs?

To come to worship and praise God through songs, scriptures, stories, prayers, playing instruments, and sharing Gods love
To learn songs so children are given opportunity to serve God and their church
To lead worship on Sunday Mornings

What it's not:

It's not just another activity
It's not a place to be a star or celebrity
It's not just entertainment
It's not a babysitter

What it is:

It's a time to come worship our Lord and Savior
It's a time to learn to be great Worship Leaders
It's providing children with their first opportunity of serving and giving back to God and their church
It's a time when we join together to sing songs, pray, and study the Bible (learn scriptures and stories)
It's about building a relationship with Jesus!
It's learning about Gods love for us
It's about sharing Gods love with others
It's learning about commitment, responsibility
It's learning about the "Word" through songs and scriptures
It provides nurturing atmosphere
It exposes children to quality choral literature
It's a graded choir program for children to build their musical skills
It's a participatory program
It's an integrated program of music education involving movement, singing, playing instruments as well as Christian education in learning scriptures, Bible stories, Gods promises, and great hymns of our faith



Calendar 2008-2009

August 27 (Wednesday)	1st Regular Rehearsal
September 3, 10, 17, 24	Regular Wednesday Rehearsal
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Regular Wednesday Rehearsal
October 5 (Sunday)	Celebrate Choir ONLY—be there at 3:30
	Heritage Nursing Home- Sing at 4:00
October 19 (Sunday)	Joy, Lyric, & Celebrate Choirs at 11 am
November (Sunday)	Childrens Choirs will sing in Worship TBA
November 5, 12	Regular Wednesday Rehearsal
November 19 (Wednesday)	Regular Rehearsal and LAST CHIME REHEARSAL until January
November 26 (Wednesday)	NO CHOIR REHEARSAL (Thanksgiving)
December 3 (Wednesday)	Regular Rehearsal (No Chimes until 2009)
	for Chreub, Sonshine and Joy Choirs
	Celebrate Narrators Only at 4:00 p.m.
	Lyric and Celebrate Choirs meet from 4:30 to 6:00. Bring SOCKS for Community Meal
	"Lessons in Carols" Service 7:00 p.m.
December 7 (Sunday Night)	Lyric and Celebrate Choirs Only
	Be at church 6:15, come to Choir Room #166
December 10 (Wednesday)	Technical rehearsal for Christmas Eve Sanctuary-
	4:00 p.m. for Narrators;
	4:30-6:00 p.m. for older choirs;
	younger choirs 4:45-6:00 p.m.
December 17 (Wednesday)	Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Eve
	4:00 p.m. for Narrators; 4:30-6:00 p.m. for older choirs; younger choirs 4:45-6:00 p.m.
	Run through begins at 5:00 p.m.
	(Younger children will portray Nativity in costumes)
	(Last family night supper until January 7, 2008)
December 24 (Sunday)	Christmas Eve Services 4:00, 6:00, and 11:00 p.m
	Childrens Choirs participate in 4:00 service w/ costumes & robes; Lyric and Celebrate be at church at 3:15. Joy, Sonshine, and Cherub be at church at 3:30.
NO CHILDRENS CHOIR REHEARSALS UNTIL JANUARY 7th	
January 7 (Wednesday)	Choir Rehearsals and Chimes Resume
February (Sunday)	Childrens Choirs will sing in Worship TBA
March (Sunday)	Childrens Choirs will sing in Worship TBA
April 5 (Sunday)	Palm Sunday
April 26 (Sunday)	Tale of Three Trees at 4:00 p.m.
April 29 (Wednesday)	Choir Party TBA and Celebrate Choir rehearses with Mom's after party
May 6 (Wednesday)	Mother's Day Rehearsal 5:00-6:00
May 10 (Sunday)	Mother's Day; Celebrate Choir and Moms sing at 11:00 Worship