



EPWORTH

Kids

*Empowering families to grow
together on their journey to
know, love, and serve God...
one child at a time.*

EPWORTH.COM/KIDS

EPWORTH KIDS ON SUNDAY

Your kids are always welcome at all of our worship gatherings. In addition, we provide Faith formation programming and childcare during our Sunday morning services. Each week, through dynamic Bible stories brought to life by our Children's Worship Team and engaging activities with our small group leaders, your kids will be challenged to learn and grow in their faith.

We have safety policies and procedures that include specialized training, background checks, and secure check-in procedures. This parent handbook defines all of those important procedures as well as outlining some ways we are here to partner with parents to help raise children of faith. Our hope is that you and your children feel safe, loved, and encouraged.

EPWORTH KIDS ON SUNDAY MORNING:

CRY ROOM | Children's Wing, Mother's Room | All day

This is a dedicated space for new parents to feed, care for, and calm their babies.

INFANTS | Children's Wing, Nursery Room | 8:30, 9:45 & 11

Our babies are cared for during all 3 worship gatherings by loving, trained, staff in our nursery with age appropriate activities and toys.

TODDLERS | Children's Wing, Toddler Room | 9:45 & 11

Children 18 months to 3 years are nurtured by our loving, trained staff in the toddler room during all 3 worship gatherings. During the 9:45 & 11 worship services, toddlers participate in an engaging Bible story with music and play to begin connecting them to Biblical truths.

PRESCHOOL | Children's Wing, Preschool Room | 9:45 & 11

Preschoolers age 3-5 participate in a fun, creative experience designed to encourage kids as they grow in their walk with God. Children spend part of the hour in a small group setting that enriches their faith through games, crafts, and age appropriate discussions. Preschoolers also have the opportunity to experience a large group lesson in our Preschool Worship Space. This is a high-energy environment that teaches the weekly Bible lesson through songs, drama and group participation.

GRADES K-5 | Children's Wing, Rooms by age group | 9:45

This is our primary hour for Elementary faith formation groups at Epworth Kids. In age based small groups, your child will explore a monthly Biblical truth, or "Life App", and engage in ways to put it into practice in their everyday lives. Children also have the opportunity to experience a large group lesson in our Children's Church. Children's Church is a high-energy environment that teaches the week's lesson through song, drama, games, video clips and more.

GRADES K-3 | Children's Wing, Rooms by age group | 11am

All families begin in the sanctuary and then after the children's message, the kids gather for W.O.W. (Worship Our Way). This volunteer led large group worship experience is designed to help kids grow in their faith.

QUIET ROOM | 2nd Floor - Room 202 | 8:30, 9:45 & 11

This space is designed specifically for those with sensory sensitivity. We have trained adult supervisors in the room during all our worship gatherings, individuals of all ages may utilize this space.

did you know?

Want to get involved in a Bible study, small group, or other regular event? Epworth Kids offers childcare for many Epworth activities. We provide a nurturing Christian environment where you can feel safe leaving your children so parents can fully participate in the life of the church. Please email childcare@epworth.com at least one week prior to the event you wish to attend, so we can arrange for childcare.

KIDS FAITH PASSAGES

One of the ways Epworth partners with families is through Faith Passages. Faith passages mark significant moments of faith development on the Christian journey of knowing, loving, and serving God. Epworth celebrates five Faith Passages between birth and fifth grade.

LOVE | NURSERY

Parents and adult caregivers teach infants and toddlers the love of God through meeting their basic needs, keeping them safe and secure, bringing them to church regularly, and sharing songs and simple stories of our Christian faith at home.

WORSHIP | 3 YEAR OLDS

Around the age of three, children begin focusing on, worshipping and celebrating God! Parents and children are encouraged to express their love for God by worshipping through prayer, song, Scripture, dance, art, and nature.

PRAYER | KINDERGARTEN

When children enter Kindergarten, they are learning to connect more deeply with God through prayer. They learn prayer is talking and listening to God.

BIBLE | THIRD GRADE

In a special worship service, the children are honored with their very own Bible! Parents are asked to help their children read and understand the Word of God.

CROSS | FIFTH GRADE

The child's completion of EpworthKids is celebrated along with the movement into the next stage of faith development. They will begin to claim their faith as their own with the modeling, support, and encouragement of their families at home and church.

Learn more on the Faith Passage flyers located in the Children's Wing.

EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Bringing kids into the life of the church is one of the many ways we empower families to grow together in their faith. Throughout the year, we offer several family focused special events to provide opportunities for intergenerational growth. A few of our annual events are below, check epworth.com/events for all of our current family events.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP

Every December, our gym is filled with holiday music, laughter and the sweet smell of Christmas. Families are welcome to invite your friends and come decorate a gingerbread house masterpiece!

TRUNK OR TREAT/HOLY SMOKE BBQ

Kids of all ages dress up in costumes for this safe trick-or-treating alternative in our parking lot. Members and friends dress up, decorate their trunks, and pass out candy. We even have a haunted house in our Deep End (youth space).

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

From emergency to construction vehicles, motorcycles to semi-trucks, each spring kids can honk horns, climb inside, and pretend to drive almost anything on wheels. We also offer two sensory friendly times throughout the morning to include those with sensory sensitivity.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Kids can experience the Bible come to life in ways they never have before! This is a full week of worship, fun, and faith exploration that promises to be the best week of your child's summer.

If you're interested in sharing your talents as an adult leader or volunteer at any of these events, please contact our Director of Children's Ministries, Mary Roesti at mary@epworth.com.

it takes a
village!

KIDS SERVE

In our efforts to come alongside parents to help our children know, love, and serve God, we offer several opportunities for kids to learn what it means to serve others, and why it's so important. Some of these include:

KID-TO-KID MISSIONS

Epworth Kids serve other children in need, both near and far through quarterly mission projects.

PENNIES FOR JESUS

A preschool offering used to buy Bibles to send with our mission teams across the globe.

SERVING 4:19

A church-wide, family friendly, quarterly service Saturday in the Toledo area. Details on locations, types of service, and sign-ups take place three weeks prior to each Serving 4:19 Saturday.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children ages 3 - grade 5. Meet Wednesdays from 5:15-6pm.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Children grades 3-5. Meet on Wednesdays from 6-6:30pm.

ACOLYTING

Children grades 4-7 bring the light of Christ into our traditional worship service at 9:45am.

ANNUAL FAMILY MISSION TRIP

A service opportunity for 7-10 year olds (with parent, guardian, or grandparent), usually a Saturday-Sunday within an hour drive. In years past, we've gone to the Sandusky area. Sharing God's love through serving others changes us and blesses others. What a difference one day can make in the life of your child – and yours too!

SAFE SANCTUARY

Epworth UMC is a Safe Sanctuary for Children. Epworth staff and the Methodist District office want you to be aware of our guidelines in this area. Our children must be in a safe and nurturing environment at all times when they are here.

IN THE NURSERY

There are to be two adults, or one adult and one youth sitter. There are to be two workers for every 10 children. Diaper changes are to be done by parents whenever possible. When changes are done by staff there will be at least one other nursery worker or other adult in the room. Parents need to sign their child in and out, noting where in the building they will be.

IN THE TODDLER ROOM

There are to be two adults or one adult and one youth sitter for every 10 children. Diaper changes are to be done in the nursery, by the above procedure. Potty training children are to use the bathroom located in the classroom. The door to the bathroom is to be left slightly open if the child needs assistance. Children will be encouraged to “do it all by themselves”. Parents will be encouraged to have children use the bathroom before they are dropped off. Parents need to sign their child in and out, noting where in the building they will be.

IN THE PRESCHOOL ROOMS

One adult volunteer will teach in each preschool room. Nametags should be worn at all times. Children will use the bathrooms in the classroom and the teachers will give no bathroom assistance. Special care should be taken to have teachers wear their nametags and introduce themselves to any parent they don't know. Parents will always sign their child in and out, noting where in the building they will be.

IN THE ELEMENTARY ROOMS

One adult volunteer will teach, one adult volunteer small group leader will be with each class. All Leaders should remember to wear their nametags and introduce themselves to any parents they don't know. Parents will always sign their child in and out, noting where in the building they will be. Children should be encouraged to go to the bathroom in pairs. No assistance will be given by children's ministry leaders in the bathroom.

IN ALL SPACES

No foods are to be served that contain peanut or peanut products, any child with a known serious allergy will have an allergy report posted in his/her Sunday school room or leader's supply box. How to recognize signs of abuse and what to do about it will be included in leader training.

ALL PAID AND VOLUNTEER STAFF

An annual background check is required. Paid and volunteer staff will also maintain certifications in first aid/CPR/AED for children and infants as well as being A.L.I.C.E. certified.

YOUTH SITTERS:

Youth sitters will know an adult will stop by at any time to check on how things are going. The door should remain closed and locked for everyone's safety. Sitters will be trained and reminded from time to time on the emergency procedures and how to use the church's phone system.

SUNDAY CHECK-IN POLICY

In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for your children, Epworth uses a child check-in and dismissal program. All kids must be checked-in by a parent/guardian upon their arrival and the adult will receive a security tag specific to their child. At dismissal, whoever picks up your child will need to show the corresponding security tag. No child will be released to someone without the matching security tag.

CONTACT US

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