

United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

Children's Ministry

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The primary purpose of our program is to help children know they are children of God and to help guide them as they grow in their faith in Christ—both now and throughout their life journey.

THE TASK

Providing children with the tools of a strong faith is not a simple task; the needs of children vary according to their circumstances and experiences. The needs of children are multicultural; they are economic; they are related to time and place and circumstances. The needs of children differ according to their learning styles, their abilities, and their individual stages of physical, mental, and spiritual development.

Most of the needs of children are always growing and changing.

In addition, we know that the needs of children cannot be met without providing for the needs of the adults who nurture them—parents, teachers, pastors, and the entire congregation.

OBJECTIVES

As children study the core curriculum from infancy to age twelve, there are some general objectives to keep in mind for the children as well as for the adults who work with them.

Children will

1) Experience the awe and mystery of God's love, especially experienced through Jesus Christ; identify themselves as children of God, the recipients of God's love; and respond to that love by commitment to God through Jesus Christ within the community of faith.

2) Know the Bible and make its stories, people, passages, and verses a part of their lives.

3) Learn skills for reading the Bible to learn its full message of salvation and life.

4) Experience the faith community through worship and service in the life of the church, especially within their local congregation, and also through connecting with persons of faith both past and present.

5) Grow in discipleship, explore the calls of God, the teachings of Jesus, and the witness of the church as they participate in worship, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines, including decision-making, service, and witness.

6) With the riches of faith, address the life issues that concern them and those who care about children.

7) Know the value of all people, races, and cultures, and appreciate and honor the gifts of all persons; treasure the gifts of diversity, including the contributions of those society pushes to the margins.

Parents will ...

- Find help for their own faith and life skills, empowering them to model and speak about their faith with their children.

Teachers will...

- Be nurtured in the Christian faith, enabling them to grow in faith by being able to model and speak about their faith, especially with children.
- Be equipped with the skills and understandings needed to teach effectively.

Pastors and congregations will...

- Recognize children as an integral part of a vital community of faith and value their participation in worship, mission and service, and fellowship as well as in the specific settings of children's ministries.

All adults will...

- Be advocates for children in the community and around the world.