

Guidelines for Children

Purpose

The purpose of North Presbyterian Church's Guidelines for Children is to provide a safe and loving environment for children and everyone.

Vision

We affirm that all children are a gift of God, created by God and created good; all children are a gift to the whole of the human community; all children have a real faith, and gifts for ministry; all children have the right to be children; and all children are not just tomorrow, they are today. We hope for a world where all children can find a safe place; where all ages, races, genders, creeds, and abilities are recognized, valued, and celebrated; where all adults hear the voices of children and speak with as well as for them; where all children have "first call" on the world's resources and first place in the minds and hearts of the world's adults. Jesus lifted up a child as an example of what the realm of God is like encouraging us to welcome them in God's name.

Children in the Sanctuary

Children and infants are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Activity bags are available from a stand in the Gathering Space (Narthex).

Children in Gathering Space (Narthex)

Children are welcome in the Gathering Space with a person 16 years or older. Our worship service is broadcast to this area, and we offer activity bags from the stand for their enjoyment. You are welcome to bring items for your family's comfort. Feel free to move chairs from Meisenheimer Hall. Please pack up your comfort items and return activity bags and chairs during the closing hymn.

Baby and Parent

The Fireside Room and Meisenheimer Hall are available, if needed, for baby and parent.

Children Always Accompanied

Children under 10 must be accompanied by a person 16 years or older at all times for the safety of everyone.

Youth in worship

Youth age 10-14 are expected to be in the sanctuary during worship or involved in an approved ministry such as teacher's assistant or hospitality helper.

Staffed, Free Childcare (Birth to age 5) and Sunday School (Age 5-4th grade) (Seasonal Only)

North Presbyterian Church will strive to provide staffed free childcare and Sunday School on Sundays from mid September through early May, excluding the Sunday after Christmas. Occasionally, Childcare and or Sunday School may not be available due to staff/adult availability. Childcare is not available for Seasons and special services such as: Festival of Cultures and Mid-week Lenten Services. Children are always welcome in worship and in the Gathering Space.

Approved by the Nurture Commission
April 2025

North Presbyterian Church CHILDCARE SAFETY AND HEALTH GUIDELINES

North Church childcare is available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, birth through 5 years of age. To provide a safe and healthy environment, the following guidelines have been established.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- We request that North Church childcare providers, volunteer assistant childcare providers, and parents be the only “big people” in the childcare room.
- Due to allergies, food is not allowed in the childcare rooms.
- Only childcare providers, volunteer assistant childcare providers, and adult family members are allowed to lift and carry children.
- Children must be signed in and out of the childcare room. Children can only leave the childcare room with their parent(s) or other designated adult(s). Siblings cannot pick up children for their parent(s).
- Parents (or designated adults) must stay on the church grounds after dropping off children and carry with them their assigned pager, so they can be contacted if needed or in case of emergency.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

Volunteers and children should not be in the childcare room if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A fever of 100 degrees or more in the last 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- Any active contagious illness such as influenza, COVID, conjunctivitis (pink eye), etc.
- Any rash that may be disease-related or for which the cause is unknown

Only childcare providers, volunteer assistant childcare providers, and adult family members are allowed to change children’s diapers. Soiled diapers should be placed in plastic bags and disposed of in the dumpster beside the garage. Hands should be thoroughly washed for 20 seconds before and after diaper changes.

*Approved by the Personnel Committee
August 2023*

*Approved by Nurture Commission
July 2024*