



**This year at Decatur Presbyterian Church, our theme is Belonging. We will be talking about belonging to God, one another, the community, and the world. Our hope this year is that all the children and their families who come through our doors this year know that they belong to God's big family. We have an exciting year planned and hope that your family will seek out ways to connect in whatever way you can.**

**With joy,  
Emily Wilmesherr  
Director of Children's Ministry & Fellowship Events**

### **Decatur Presbyterian Children's Ministry Team**

**Emily Wilmesherr**, Director of Children's Ministry & Fellowship Events

**Lori McMahan**, Director of Children's Choirs & music teacher at DPCC

**Ellen McClure**, Director of Decatur Presbyterian Church Children's Community (DPCC)

**Brandon Laird**, Incoming Director of DPCC

**Emily Howell**, Childcare Coordinator

**Children's Ministry Committee:** Dené Dixon, Tom Adams, Carolyn Brooks, Catherine Carter, Leah Humphries, Linda LeBron, Lisa Nye, Leslie Ollinger, Connie Perry, Lucia Sizemore

**Faith Formation Council:** Connie Perry (Chair), Jan Bedol, Ed Owens, Betty Saye, Gordon Rose

## **Sunday School**

### **9:15 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.**

**Check in & check-out** for all children on Sunday mornings will be in the DPC Kids Check-in area located up the stairs to the right of the main church reception desk. Children in the nursery and toddler rooms will need to fill out a name tag for children's back. Their name tag number matches a number on a smaller tag that parents/guardians will keep and return to childcare workers at pick up.

#### ***Nursery and Toddlers class located in the Main Level of Bradley Building***

**Nursery** 3 month-olds to 2-year-olds: Our professional childcare workers will make you and your babies/toddlers feel at home! **(Room 160)**

**Toddlers: Frolic** 2-3 year olds (by September 1, 2018): Taught by a team of teachers, your little ones will feel loved and cared for in this class as they hear Bible stories, make crafts, and play. **(Room 165)**

#### ***PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, located on lower level of McGeachy***

##### **Pre-K and Kindergarten: Godly Play (Blue Room)**

Children engage fundamental Bible stories through multi-sensory learning, imagination, and play. It is a theologically sound and developmentally appropriate way for equipping children to articulate their own language of faith.

##### **1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Digging Into the Bible in One Year** **(1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade Yellow Room and 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Green Room)**

Children will journey through the Bible and discover people just like them from Genesis to Revelation. They will see evidence of God's love from long ago and learn to look for it in their lives today. Classes will be split up 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>. On November 11, there will be a Bible Quiz Show for students in this class. All of the questions will come from the bible stories they learn this fall. The more Sundays that they attend this fall, the greater the chance they will be able to answer more of the questions.

## **Worship Options**

### **10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Check in** for all children on Wednesday Nights will be either on the playground or in the yellow children's ministry room with the childcare workers.

**Children are welcome in worship at DPC.** Located in the Foyer, there is a "Pack your own worship bag station" which includes children's Bibles, books, bible-based coloring and activity pages. There are also pre-made worship bags available in the narthex.

**Children's Chapel** is an interactive worship experience for Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Children will engage with worship through activities, games, and crafts as they learn more about what it means to worship God. Children's Chapel is meaningful worship at the same time that it is preparation for worship with the wider congregation.

Children leave for Children's Chapel following the Children's Moment in the Sanctuary. Check out is in the Scott Chapel, located next to the Sanctuary. If this is your first time, don't hesitate to ask someone for help navigating the hallways! You are always welcome to join your child if that helps to make the transition for your child more smooth.

**Nursery and Toddlers** continue with professional caregivers during the worship hour in Bradley Building rooms 160 and 165. Decatur Presbyterian Church has a staff of professional childcare workers who will make you and your babies/toddlers feel at home.

## **Wednesday Nights** **4:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.**

Join us for a family-friendly meal and worship service, choir for children, and fun programming for all ages.

**Dinner** with child-friendly options, served from 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

**Weekly Word** 6:10-6:25 p.m. is a break in the middle of the week for intergenerational worship.

**Cricket Choir** Pre-K and Kindergarten, 4:30-4:55 p.m.

**Carol Choir** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

**Chapel Choir** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades, 5:30-6:10 p.m.

Contact Director of Children's Choirs, Lori McMahan, [lmcmahan@dpchurch.org](mailto:lmcmahan@dpchurch.org) for more information.

**Kid's Club** Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grades, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Kid's Club meets for fun-filled activities and meaningful fellowship.

**Nursery** 3 year olds and under, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 6:10-7:15 p.m. \*break for dinner  
Professional childcare workers care for our younger children.

**Kid's Program** Kindergarten- 5<sup>th</sup> grades, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Children will explore God's word and what it means for their life through interactive science and LEGO lessons. \*The nursery will be available for children younger than Kindergarten.

**Adult Growth and Learning**, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Contact Rev. Alex Rodgers, [arodgers@dpchurch.org](mailto:arodgers@dpchurch.org), for more information

**Youth Bible study**, high schoolers, 7:45 p.m. (in homes)

Contact Rev. Allysen Schaaf, [aschaaf@dpchurch.org](mailto:aschaaf@dpchurch.org), for more information

## More Information

### **Our Teachers:**

Valuing an intergenerational approach to Children's Ministry, the teachers in DPC's classrooms are young adults, parents, empty nesters and seniors. Teachers are trained at the beginning of the year to engage children, teach curriculum, and most importantly, maintain highest standards of safety and hospitality. We are grateful to God these folks share their gifts with our community in this way.

### **Our Childcare Workers:**

At DPC, we take seriously the well-being of your toddlers and infants. Our professional childcare workers come with years of experience, background checks, receive First Aid/CPR training, and follow the Child and Youth Safety Policy. This year we are privileged to work with teachers who spend their weekdays at DPCC, College Heights, and more. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions or share any concerns, by e-mailing Emily Wilmesherr, [ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org](mailto:ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org)

### **Children's Choirs:**

The objective of the children's choir program is to instill an appreciation for music and singing, to teach responsibility, confidence, independence, and the importance of church involvement, and to usher children into the presence of God. The children's choirs provide music for Sunday worship about once a month and for special services throughout the year.

### **Safety and Hospitality:**

Here at DPC we want to create an environment where your whole family feels safe and loved. One way to accomplish this is through our system of checking in and out our the children.

- **Wednesday nights:** A book will be on the playground or in the classroom for you to sign your child in and out, as well as making a note if they plan to go to choir that evening.
- **Sunday mornings:** If you are attending Sunday School, a sign in/out book and greeter will be in the check-in area located outside of the DPCC hallway. Please sign in & out all children who are present for SS as well as those who plan to attend Children's Chapel (PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> graders).

DPC strives to be a tree nut- and peanut-free campus. Please alert us to any allergies at registration and with check in. We provide a snack of Goldfish for children in 2/3s and Children's Chapel.

DPC follows a Child and Youth Protection Policy adopted by its Session. To learn more about our code of conduct and commitment to a safe and healthy environment for our children, please check out the policy on our [website](#).

## Special note for Parents

We are glad you and your family are a part of Children's Ministry at DPC! Parents have so many decisions to make with and for their children these days: how to pack a lunch, what to do after school, when to let them get on screens. By choosing to be involved with Children's Ministry at Decatur Presbyterian, you've made a good choice for your child. You're connecting her to her community, helping him deepen relationships, nurturing in her a sense of empathy, and grounding him in moral principles. Also, you are surrounding your child with people who have made baptismal vows to love and teach him/her about God's great love. Way to go, parents!

Here are some tips for the year:

**Stay involved:** Follow up with your child at home. Every Sunday your child will bring home leaflets from Sunday School and/or activity bags from Worship/Children's Chapel. Explore these with your child. Encourage their questions and share stories of your own.

**Stay engaged:** Learn more about the families and children of DPC by volunteering as a teacher, greeter, or supporter on Sunday mornings. Contact Emily Wilmesherr for more information.

**Stay connected:** Sign up for our emails (weekly highlights & monthly newsletters) and text alert group.

**Remind.com** is a text alert app and website that the Children's Ministry (including choir) uses to communicate last minute reminders or important notes.

-General DPC Kids: text @dpcparents to the number 81010

-Tweens (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders): text @45club to the number 81010

-Children's Chapel (PreK-2<sup>nd</sup>): text @kidschapel to the number 81010

When you join any group, you will receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, you can try texting @dpcparents to (662) 727-4055.

**Emails** if you are not already signed up on our email list or need to change an address, please contact [dhowell@dpchurch.org](mailto:dhowell@dpchurch.org)

## 2018-2019 DPC Kids Calendar

*Details of events are subject to change. Check DPC CM communications for updates.*

August 19<sup>th</sup> Kick-off Sunday: Sunday School meet teachers with short bible lesson

August 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Nights begin (choir practices, dinner, and church-wide event)

\*Check-in & registration will be located on the Music hall for all children

August 24<sup>th</sup> Moving Showing: *Trigger* at 6pm

\*Talk to Emily by August 20<sup>th</sup> if you need childcare

August 26<sup>th</sup> Club 45 Kick-off Event at Stars & Strikes

\*check email & text alerts for details

August 29<sup>th</sup>- October 3<sup>rd</sup> LEGO Club, 6:30pm-7:15pm

\*Check-in & registration will be located on the Music hall for all children (on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>)

September 8<sup>th</sup> Parent Party at Tom & Marianne Adams home

September 9<sup>th</sup> Child-led Worship, Parent Godly Play after worship

September 29<sup>th</sup> Church- Wide Retreat at the DPC Retreat Center

September 30<sup>th</sup> Carol & Chapel Choirs, Club 45

October 6<sup>th</sup> Blessing of the Animals

October 7<sup>th</sup> Communion Workshop

October 10<sup>th</sup>- November 14<sup>th</sup> Science Club, 6:30pm-7:15pm (no class on Oct. 31)

October 21<sup>st</sup> Carol & Chapel Choirs sing, Club 45

October 26<sup>th</sup> Trunk-n-Treat

November 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Night Out (childcare provided at the church)

November 4<sup>th</sup> Child-led Worship

November 11<sup>th</sup> Carol & Chapel Choirs sing, PreK & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bible dedication, Club 45

November 28<sup>th</sup> Advent Festival

December 2<sup>nd</sup> Come As You Are Christmas Pageant & Youth Pancake Breakfast, Club 45

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday School Service Projects

December 9<sup>th</sup> Chapel Choir sings

December 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Caroling

December 19<sup>th</sup> Last Wednesday Night, Longest Night Service

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Worship: 3:30pm Young Family Worship, 5:30 Child-led & all children sing