

During the Sermon

- ✦ Encourage your child to pay attention to key words in the sermon, even writing them down on the worship bulletin.
- ✦ Encourage your child to use the papers available in the worship bags to draw pictures about the sermon or for future Children's Bulletin covers.

After the Service

- ✦ Replace hymnals in the pew rack. Take your bulletin with you to recycle or take it home for discussion. Use the pictures or words written during the sermon for faith talks later in the week.
- ✦ Encourage your child to greet the pastor each week
- ✦ On the way home talk about the worship service. What was the topic? What key words did you hear?
- ✦ Continue to talk about the sermon throughout the week.
- ✦ Attend Sunday School regularly

Bearden UMC Worship Services:

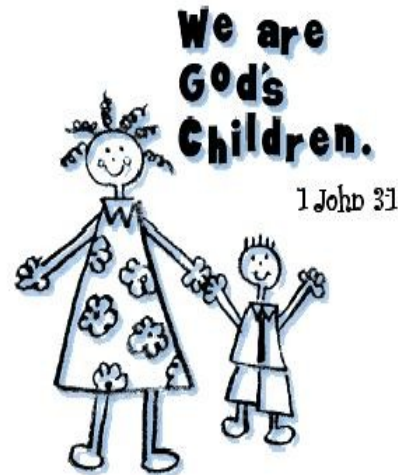
Weekly:

9:00 am Traditional Worship

11:00 am Traditional Worship

Second Sunday of the month:

6:00 pm Jubilee—Praise & Worship



For more information contact:

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Parenting in the Pew: Tips for Families



***Jesus said,
"Let the little children
come to me"
Mark 10:14***



What is Worship?

Worship is a time for us to gather as a community to offer praises to God, to hear the good news of the Gospel, and to share our joys and concerns as the family of God.

Why include children in worship?

We believe the Gospel is for persons of all ages and we welcome all to be a part of our worship experience at Bearden UMC.

We believe:

- † Worship is the primary means by which our Christian faith is formed and expressed.
- † Children learn to worship from those who surround them in the congregation
- † Welcoming congregations model God's design for community when differences are accepted and affirmed and individuals feel they belong.
- † Jesus welcomed and fully accepted little children, in fact, the Kingdom belongs to them!
- † While worshiping, children explore the potential they have as children of God.
- † Jesus directed his followers to learn from children. Having children with us in Worship helps us observe and learn the qualities Jesus Christ desires for his followers.

We accept and affirm the promises made at baptism to uphold and nurture children, surrounding them in Christian love so that they may be established and confirmed in the faith.

Worship is not about us or what we want!

Worship is about God and what pleases God! God is pleased when families worship together, when parents guide their children in worship and when congregations welcome children into the community of faith!

How can I help my child participate in worship more fully?

Parenting can be one of life's greatest challenges, yet also one of life's greatest joys. Parenting in the pew is no different! Preparation is the key!

Before the Service—At Home

- † Visit the church on a day other than Sunday. Go to the sanctuary when it is empty and quiet. Explore the different areas in the sanctuary—the baptismal font, the altar, the pulpit, the choir loft, the balcony—and talk with your child about each area.
- † Pray with your child regularly—at home, at church, before bed, before school, anywhere and everywhere.
- † Read the Bible together. Review your child's Sunday school lesson or the Scripture lesson from the worship service.
- † Practice whispering. Explain to your child that we whisper during worship so we don't disturb the minister or those around us.
- † Sunday morning really begins on Saturday night. Set out clothes, offering envelopes, Bibles and other necessities.
- † Leave toys and games at home.
- † Wake up early enough to allow for a relaxed pace while getting ready.
- † Eat a simple breakfast.
- † Sing hymns in the car on the way to church, pop in a Christian music CD, or listen to a Christian radio station like Love 89.1 FM.

Before the Service—At Church

- † Go to the bathroom before entering the sanctuary. If you have attended Sunday school, stop at the bathroom between Sunday school and worship.
- † Arrive in the sanctuary early
- † Pick up a worship bag as they are available. These include a special bulletin, bookmark, worship activities, a book, and crayons.
- † Pick up a bulletin from the ushers
- † Sitting close to the front can help children see better and follow what is going on. Avoid sitting in the balcony where children may feel more like a spectator than a participant.
- † Try to sit together as a family, sitting with friends can be a distraction.
- † Look through the bulletin together. Use a bookmark to mark the hymns to sing.

During the Service

- † Smile at your child often. Hold his/her hand during prayers.
- † Stand when the congregation stands
- † Share a hymnal or Bible with your child
- † Give your child money to place in the offering plate
- † Help children use the bulletin and the hymnal. Follow printed lines by using a bookmark (or an offering envelope.)
- † Whisper instructions to help your child understand what is happening. "Now is the time we tell God we are sorry for things we have done," "Now is the time we thank God for his love and forgiveness."
- † Follow along with the hymns, scripture, affirmation of faith, and doxology.

"We only learn to behave ourselves in the presence of God."

C.S. Lewis