

SHINE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

What is the schedule for Sundays?

FPCO hosts Genesis Worship at 9am and a Traditional Service at 11:15am. There is a Formation Hour (Discipleship/Sunday School) each Sunday from 10:15-11am, with the exception of the first Sunday every month, which is Fellowship Sunday.

What will the schedule be for children?

Any and all ages of children are always welcome to join parents for any of the services. During worship services, there is a nursery available for babies through three years of age, while PreK and older will join their families for services.

About 20-25 minutes into the service, children who are in the 2nd grade and younger have the option to be dismissed to *Praise and Play* (songs and bible stories), while third graders and older will remain in the service with their families. *(If children younger than four choose to attend any of the services, we ask that parents walk them to their rooms in CLC as the older children exit, just to give them a safe and smooth transition.)*

All children in SHINE's care are required to have a check-in name tag, which will be available at kiosks in the Clayton Life Center lobby or Grand Hall of Edington Ministry Center. Our suggestion is that families check in their children prior to worship services.

Fellowship Sundays will be the first Sunday every month in lieu of Formation Hour classes. For Fellowship Sundays, all children PreK (four years) and older will attend fellowship time (10:15-11am) with their families. Children three and younger have an optional nursery available during this time.

What if I don't think my children are ready for 'big church'?

Worship is formational for everyone present—from the youngest to the oldest (even if we think they're not getting it) because God is present with us. Because of this, we believe children can and should participate with everyone else. Don't underestimate them! Children are learners and will adapt more quickly than you think. There will be a learning curve but you'll be surprised by the conversations that you can have with your children because of this shared experience.

SHINE Worship Bags

Our hope is to facilitate children's curiosity and growth through a variety of materials that will be included in the bags. Worship Bags will be available in our CLC lobby for our regular attenders and near the narthex for visitors. We will most definitely include a children's bulletin to help kids follow the service and participate in worship and to help families discuss what they've seen and heard together, plus a few surprises. Feel free to bring any of your own "tools" with you (coloring books, small toys, etc.) to help your children as they learn what it means to be part of the Body of Christ gathered in worship.

When will children experience age-appropriate Bible teaching?

During Formation Hour (10:15 - 11am), classes will be available as a dedicated time of discipleship for children, students and adults. SHINE classes are in Clayton Life Center and our staff and volunteers are ready to help you find the right spot for all your little people! This year our elementary children will be using [The Biggest Story Bible Storybook by Kevin DeYoung](#) (we would love to give you a copy of this! Find one in our lobby!). Our preschool and kindergarten children will be using the [Read-Aloud Bible Stories](#) by Ella K. Lindvall and [God Loves Me](#) Series by Patricia Nederveld.

Aren't children disruptive in worship?

You bet. Children wiggle, whisper, squawk and cry. They may wander, they may sing too loud, they may want to dance during the music, and they may want to talk during the sermon. And all of that is ok. We'd rather create a warm, welcoming environment where the church family is together, being loved, than have a perfectly calm, quiet worship service. Our job as parents is to help our children grow toward the maturity of being able to fully participate in the life of the church, and that includes worship services. Our ultimate goal is to worship God, and Jesus modeled a life of worship that included little children. [Here's an encouraging read on this topic!](#)

What if the sermon isn't kid-friendly?

If the content is of a more grown-up nature, we will make sure to let parents know the topic at the beginning of the service. As a church, we always want to frame our conversations around difficult topics so that our children are learning and growing in their knowledge of the world with a biblical worldview. This takes practice and we plan to walk our families through any difficult subject matter.

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