

First Presbyterian Church Covenants as a Congregation for Children

Across the varied children's ministries of First Presbyterian Church, we seek to foster in our children an awareness of the family of faith as a place identified by love, a sense of welcoming acceptance and belonging, and a yearning to learn and grow with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We Believe

- All children are created in the image of God.
- As a Covenant community we are called to live out our Baptismal vows which call us to be faithful with and for children.
- We are responsible for providing a developmentally appropriate educational program that nurtures the whole child – spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually, in an atmosphere of Christian love, respect, and acceptance.
- We must nurture the growth of each child in the understanding of his/her uniqueness as a Child of God.
- We are responsible for supporting parents and families and to assist them as they mold their children into healthy, thoughtful, responsible, and spiritual individuals.
- We must strive to empower all children to become all that God intended, love them unconditionally and listen to their voices.

Therefore we covenant to live out our ministries which shape

- Identity
 - Ministry that shapes and encourages Christian identity where every child knows himself or herself to be a Child of God.
 - Where children and adults together as partners create a community that celebrates diversity and cherishes each other's gifts and talents.
- Belonging
 - Ministry that creates a place where children are nurtured, welcomed, valued and recognized as vital members of the whole community.
 - Where children grow in confidence, maturity, and security necessary to live boldly into their identity.
- Discipleship
 - Ministry that teaches and shares the love of God with each child by showing that love in concrete ways as they learn to love their neighbor as themselves.
 - Where children learn to love the Lord their God with their whole heart and soul and are called into a meaningful faith journey with our Lord and Savior.

It is our intention to live out this covenant by

- Growing in greater understanding of our baptismal vows;
- Praying for children and families in our congregation and in the world;
- Intentionally engaging in ministries that seek the identity, belonging and discipleship of children and their families.