

What to Expect... an Empathy Check!

We are so grateful that your family is here.

First times can be both daunting and exciting. We understand that your children may be more comfortable staying with you in the service. There are always coloring books and small fidget toys to play with. We don't mind wiggles, chatter or laughter coming from the pews. We would also be delighted to accompany you and your children on a personal tour of our three classrooms to help acquaint your family with our spaces before or after worship.

For those of you who are ready to try out our Sunday morning **Kids Connect** ministry program, here is an overview to help you know what to expect.

1. **Welcome Table:** Upon arrival, stop by the Kids Connect Welcome Table. Our friendly volunteers will be there to check your child(ren) in, help with nametags and answer any questions.
2. **Join the Congregation:** Children attend the first 15 minutes of the Service, until the invitation to join the NextGen team at the back of the Sanctuary. Caregivers of nursery aged children will walk with their child and then return to the Sanctuary. Preschool and elementary aged students will walk with their teacher to their classroom.
3. **Classrooms:** Your child will be welcomed to a room during our **Kids Connect** time.
 - a. The Nursery is located on the lower level of the Kids Connect Building
 - b. The Wonder Room is adjacent to the nursery on the lower level
 - c. The Treetop Room is on the 2nd level
4. **Comfort Items:** Feel free to bring any comfort items your child may need, such as a favorite toy or blanket, to help them feel more at ease.
5. **What Happens if your child feels scared or wants to return to you:** It's normal for children to feel a bit anxious in new environments. If your child is scared or uneasy, our caring volunteers are trained to provide comfort and reassurance or, if you prefer, will accompany them back to the service to sit with you. Parents are also welcome to stay with their child for as long as needed to help them feel comfortable.
6. **Pick-up Location:** At the end of the service, please proceed to your child's dedicated classroom to meet your child. You are welcome to bring your cup of coffee and talk to other parents while your child enjoys the playground after worship.
7. **Emergency Contact Information:** Ensure that your contact information is shared and accurate. In case of any emergency or if we need to reach you during the service, we want to be able to

contact you promptly.

8. **Communication Protocol:** We value open communication. If you have any questions, concerns, or if your child has specific needs, please don't hesitate to talk to our volunteers or staff members.
9. **Volunteer Information:** Kids Connect is run by dedicated volunteers. Get to know them, and feel free to ask questions. We're here to warmly welcome your child and create an experience that is meaningful and enjoyable.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care and spiritual nurturing of your child!

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