

# WELCOME TO WAYSIDE



Dear Parents,

How do we pass on our Christian faith to our children? Faith is not learned. All children are born spiritual. Their search for God is evidenced by their curiosity about life and the world around them.

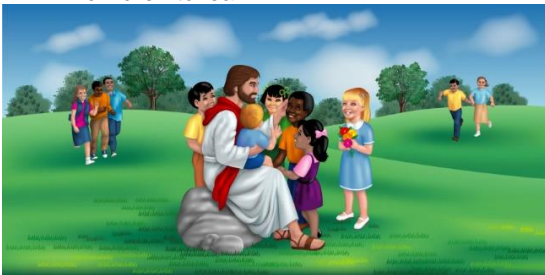
As Presbyterians, we believe that nurturing spirituality has two important relationships:

- a) modeling what we believe to our sons and daughters in our homes and
- b) nurturing and reinforcing that faith with the example and instruction of godparents in the church.

The journey of parenting our child's spiritual journey begins at their baptism. Our understanding of the sacrament is that "we" (all adults in a congregation) raise our children together. Christianity is a communal faith meaning it is practiced within a community of people. As parents, we seek for our child to benefit from the wisdom and faith of other adults.

The Spiritual Nurture and Education Committee in conversation and planning with the Outreach and Worship and Music Committees of Wayside, seeks to provide:

- a) Tools for parents to use within their home such as story Bibles; seasonal devotionals for families; and instructional songs for children to learn.



- b) Meaningful worship services, mission opportunities, and educational programs for children and parents to attend for spiritual growth.

We believe that one of the greatest challenges for parents these days is time and energy. While our culture has lost interest in what the church offers, we are those who believe that spirituality is essential to our children's wellbeing.

The challenge remains to add one more thing to our family calendar. No one can tell someone else how to do that but the fact remains, if we don't plan, the opportunities will simply go on by.

So, as a single parent or as a couple, we urge you to make a commitment and mark your family calendar with those opportunities you do not want to miss at Wayside.



Our promise to your family is that whenever you are here, there will be a meaningful, engaging, and a valuable experience for your child and for you. We believe that your instruction at home is paramount to what your child will come to believe. Our role is to support you.

Our hope is to be supportive in every way possible. We have listed subjects and opportunities that have come to believe are valuable to families.

God bless you as you seek to fulfill your baptismal vows made at your child's baptism. Your family remains in our prayers every day.

*Peace to you,  
Rev. Keith Sundberg, Rev. Dr. James Bernhardt,  
Spiritual Nurture and Education Committee,  
The Session of Wayside Presbyterian Church*

# NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

## KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE:

- Story Bibles are given to children as they enter preschool age and another older version as they begin third grade.
- Sunday School is offered each week from September through June by the parents of our children. The lessons are creative and help each child apply the story to their own life.
- All programs for children and families are biblically based.
- Vacation Bible School is offered each summer to help children grow in their faith and relationships with others.

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER

- Children of every age are welcome to attend our worship services.
- Nursery is provided for children in kindergarten and younger. All children are urged to stay through the Gospel for Young People.
- Worship bags are available for children to help them worship on their own level of understanding.
- Each family is given a devotional guide for Advent and Lent so that they can mark the seasons together with prayer.

## FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

- Events are planned throughout the church year. They include a Christmas "Shower for Baby Jesus," Eggs-perience", and a "Lenten Intergenerational", or "Palm Sunday Pageant."
- There are other family outings in conjunction with our WOW Club program. Previous years we have gone to Hurry Hill Farms to learn about maple syrup and to the Tom Ridge Center to study the environment.
- Wednesday night dinners are a popular gathering time for families of all ages.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

- Our WOW Kids Club on Wednesdays, which includes choirs, gives children an opportunity to share their talents and to help those in need. The programs each week help the boys and girls express their faith in service and ministry. Other subjects such as the environment, ecumenism, interpersonal relationships, and ministries of the church compliment the Sunday School lessons. The members have learned how to serve communion over the last few years.
- Our Mission and Outreach Committee plan service opportunities that are kid-friendly. Parents may take their family on these monthly opportunities to serve the greater community.



## AT HOME

- Bedtime prayers that include a "God bless...those they love. Teach them the Lord's Prayer.
- Blessings at meal time to give thanks to God for food and family and home.
- Read the Story Bible at night and engage your child with questions about how to live the lesson.
- Listen to Christian songs for children when driving in the car.
- Ask your child what they learned at Sunday School, in worship, and at VBS
- Foster an atmosphere of openness that allows them to ask tough questions. Usually they are looking for knowledge rather than theology or philosophy. Listen carefully.
- Make use of resources our church library offers for children on hard subjects. We have a good book on nearly every childhood issue.
- Do the Advent and Lenten devotional guide as a family.
- The Spiritual Nurture and Education Committee has purchased two books to give families when a loved one dies and two others for the loss of a pet. Just ask.
- *Wonder* enhances your child's natural "spirituality." On walks, at play, on trips, with others, encourage wonder!
- Allow prayer to make yourself aware of what is going on with your child and with you. We all have a Divine Partner in our parenting.



Wayside is an inclusive community that encourages all to be themselves and share their faith as they understand it. We recognize the baptisms of all faiths and every one of every age is welcome to celebrate communion.

For more information about our children and family ministries, please check our website at [www.wayside.org](http://www.wayside.org)

For personal questions call the church office at 814-833-7653. Either pastor would be glad to speak with you further.

## NURTURING THE FAITH OF OUR CHILDREN

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