

# CHANGES TO KID'S MINISTRY IN 2025

## **SUNDAY MORNING**

We're making a significant change: Sunday Morning Children's Church will no longer be held separately. Instead, kids will join the adults in the worship service. This change reflects our commitment to fostering a unified church family where children and adults worship and grow in faith together.

## **NURSERY**

We're introducing a new approach to the nursery by implementing Nursery Hosts.

Our Hosts are here to help parents with young children by introducing them to the nursery space. We encourage parents and children to be a part of worship, the goal is for parents and children to attend the main service, using the nursery only as needed—for diaper changes, feeding, or soothing fussy children. However, the sermon will be streamed in the nursery, in the event they need to visit or stay in the nursery during a service, so no one misses out. After the service, the host will tidy the nursery, taking care of trash, etc.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES**

Our Wednesday night youth and kids' classes will focus on teaching and discipleship. To prepare the youth for future integration with the adult congregation: When Pastor Randy is unavailable to teach the adult class or during breaks in Pastor Randy's series, Chuck and Melissa will bring all the kids into the adult class for a shared learning experience. The aim is to make the youth more comfortable learning alongside adults and foster a sense of belonging in the broader church community.

## **THURSDAY**

We're thrilled to announce that the youth building will be open every Thursday evening from 4:00–5:30 PM! This is a great opportunity for kids, 1st grade through 12th grade, to come together, play, and socialize in a fun and welcoming environment. We'll have an area set up with Wii and board games, ping pong, and foosball. Once a month, we'll host an arts and crafts day. Occasionally, we'll host movie days for everyone to enjoy. We're looking for volunteers to make this a success!

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## THE REASON FOR THE CHANGES

Statistically, most kids—about 70%—stop going to church after graduating high school. As someone who has grown up in the church and spent 27 years involved in youth ministry—both as a student and a leader—I've seen this trend firsthand. Sadly, it's far less common for young people to stay involved in the church once they've graduated.

This happens for several reasons, but two major factors stand out:

### 1. Lack of Foundation/Inadequate Discipleship

Many youth ministries focus heavily on entertainment rather than spiritual growth. While fun activities can draw students in, they often fail to provide the solid biblical foundation needed to sustain their faith beyond high school.

### 2. Lack of Community Connection/Perceived Irrelevance

When kids' ministries are treated as separate from the rest of the church, students often feel disconnected and excluded. This separation can make them view the church as irrelevant to their lives or feel like they don't belong.

To address this, we've set a goal to reduce this dropout rate—at least within our own church. Here's how:

- Focusing on Spiritual Growth: Our Wednesday evening classes emphasize teaching and discipleship to nurture students' faith and help them grow spiritually.

- Building a Sense of Belonging: We're integrating kids into Sunday morning worship and periodically involving them in the Wednesday night adult class. By doing this, we hope to show them that they are an essential part of the church body—not just spectators.

Ultimately, our prayer is that these efforts will help students feel spiritually equipped and deeply connected to their faith community. After all, they are not just the future of the church—they are the church today.