

SUNDAY STUDIO PROGRAM
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
September 2017

Our Mission Statement: To provide a loving and energetic environment to help the children of SPC learn the stories of the Bible, and also learn of God's love. Children will learn to be loving and to lead a life of service to God and others, while always knowing how important they are and how much they are loved by God.

What curriculum is used? The curriculum being used this year comes from PC(USA). There are three age groups: Preschool (Lambs), Younger Elementary (Lions, grades K-2), and Upper Elementary (Whales, grades 3-5).

Preschool - This group will be exploring how we belong to God through "Growing in Grace and Gratitude (GGG)." Written and designed for preschoolers (3-5 years), GGG nurtures the development of faith through age-appropriate Bible stories. Learning goals for GGG are: to know that God loves the child, to know that God loves all of us, to experience the church as a safe, loving place, to hear stories from the Bible, and to recognize key Bible persons by name and most of all to celebrate the grace in God's good creation.

School Age - There will be two school-aged groups: Younger Elementary to include K-2, and Older Elementary to include 3-5. Both groups use the same Scope and Sequence. GGG engages the children in biblical stories shared in a variety of ways and rooted in the Reformed tradition. The children learn through the stimulation of their imagination and class participation. Again the celebration of God's grace will be practiced.

Who will be teaching my child? The teachers for Sunday Studio are a group of people who have volunteered to work with and nurture your children in their Christian faith. All have been approved by Session and hold talents and values that make them obvious choices for these positions.

Who can participate? Sometime around a child turning 3 and becoming potty trained, you may consider sending them to Sunday Studio. We realize each child is different, and it is up to the parents to help make this decision. This program continues for your child through elementary school and 5th grade. Parents are always welcome in the classroom, so if your child is uncertain, we'd love you to join them.

When and where does my child go? During the first portion of the 10:45 service children leave the sanctuary for class. In the bulletin this often is listed as "First Pew." All classes will be held in the three classrooms upstairs.

What happens once my child leaves? All the children go upstairs together to the choir room to collect offering. Then they are dismissed to their teachers and classrooms. The Preschool children are "Lambs." Grades K-2 are "Lions." Grades 3-5 are "Whales."

How do I get my child back? We ask that a parent or other responsible party retrieve the student from the classroom at 12:00. Children will not be released without someone picking them up. Each classroom will have a picture and name of the class group that is inside. So, if your child is a 4 year old, look for the classroom that has "Lambs" on the door. Children grades

4 and 5 will be allowed to leave without a parent *IF* the parent has given written consent on the registration form. We encourage you to discuss with your child where they are to meet you once they leave the class.

Will my child have the opportunity to participate in Communion? The first Sunday of each month Communion will be offered to all students. Please talk with your child ahead of time about what Communion is and decide with them whether they would like to participate. Remind them this is a solemn time and not “snack” time.

What mission work is Sunday Studio supporting? An offering is collected that benefits Caring Cupboard. This is a local organization that provides bags of food for children in Shepherdstown Elementary and Middle Schools to take home over the weekend. Our other mission work changes, but in the past we have participated in missions for Church World Services, Heifer International, and also a local backpack drive.

How can I help? We have approximately 60 children that rely on our Sunday Studio Program. They certainly don't all show up at once, but that's a lot of young spirits that need guidance. If you have a child in the program we ask that you prayerfully consider helping occasionally as an aide to the dedicated teachers. Appeals for aides will go out each week. You will be asked to set up a SignUp Genius account to sign up as an aide.

How do I register my child(ren)? Forms will be available in Fellowship Hall or you can see Kathy Reid, the church's secretary. Most Sunday mornings she can be found working in the office. Registration is a requirement each year.

Who do I contact with questions or concerns?

Please contact Amanda Groff, Sunday Studio Director with any needs that arise. Email me at office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org or call me at 304-240-7632, or look for me at church.