

Godly Play - A Children's Ministry of
First United Methodist Church
216 W. 3rd
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www.216west3rd.org
Reverend Jim McClain, Senior Pastor

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children ages 3-7. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action - to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

- Godly Play is a way of being with children.
- A Godly Play classroom is a sacred space.
- Godly Play is deeply grounded in our spiritual traditions.
- Godly Play is innovative.

Who developed Godly Play?

Godly Play was developed and classroom tested for more than twenty years by Episcopal priest, author, and teacher Jerome Berryman. The Godly Play method is currently being used in churches of many denominations throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada.

Godly Play

offers a creative child-honoring way of entering into and experiencing the Biblical stories.

In Godly Play, we play with the language of God and God's people: our sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions and silence. Through our wondering and the community of players gathered together we hear the deepest invitation of all:

Come Play with God.

1. Godly Play sessions take place on Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 10:50
2. Please help your children be on time. They won't want to miss a minute.
3. Please drop you child off at their classroom no later than 10:05 and pick them up at their classroom by 10:50.
4. The Godly Play circle is built slowly and lovingly to welcome each child, one at a time. When children arrive they wait outside the door while the teacher helps them get ready to join the circle.
5. Please say your goodbyes at the door, and know that the teachers are ready to make the next hour a safe and welcoming time for every child.
6. Please keep in mind that young children will not always be able to tell you what they learned, because what they learned was how to learn about the powerful language of the Christian people.
7. Also, please keep in mind that children will not always be able to show you a physical product for their "work" that day, because some of what they've learned cannot be put into words even by adults. In Godly Play we focus on our relationship with God and the depths of relationships in the community of children.
8. Please don't come into the room during class because we want the Godly Play room to be a special place for the community of children. Even the teachers keep their profiles low during a Godly Play session.
9. We would be happy to welcome you on a visit to the Godly Play room outside of class time. Call us to arrange a visit or to ask any questions you might have about the program.
10. We welcome volunteers to support the teachers and the community of children by preparing the weekly "feast", by taking care of the classrooms and materials, and by making materials for the teachers to use.

Important Information

Godly Play is each Sunday
from 10:00 to 10:50 in the Godly PlayHouse.

Teachers

Michelle Taylor and Lisa Mays Preschool Room 501
Tracy Scott and Kim Christensen Kinder/1st - Room 500
Andrea Cloer and Jennifer Grames 2nd grade Room 502

Kercida McClain, Education Minister
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