

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children live in a fast paced world that is very visual and participatory. Where else do they mainly sit and listen in a situation that is planned for people other than just children? They wiggle and add noise to a quiet room. The fear is that they will be bored and therefore will decide before they are able to appreciate it fully that worship is not for them and leave worship forever. But when they are not part of the worshiping congregation children miss out. In the congregation's worship we take our place among all of God's people. Simply being in the room and walking through the rites and rituals connects us to people of all ages in our community. Children see the youth and adults that they know as teachers, coaches, and the "big kids" singing and praying. Families worshiping together claim the faith for the entire family. In some families it may be the only time they see their parents express their faith in a visible way. The stories told and songs sung by people of all ages have a different importance than those same stories and songs told and sung with only other children. Finally, worship is not an activity a child expects to outgrow moving on to another group. Instead it is a mysterious way of coming into God's presence with people of their community.

http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/04/why-children-belong-in-sanctuary.html

PWS&D MISSION MOMENT Every Gift Matters

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing reflect the joint efforts and witness of Presbyterians across Canada who live out the gospel message in all aspects of life. Together, we put our faith into action by equipping congregations, ministries and presbyteries; engaging in evangelism, outreach and discipleship; embracing local, national and international mission work: living out God's call to justice; empowering youth; engaging in healing and reconciliation; creating new faith communities and supporting congregations - and so much more! Dr. Nick Bauman, who spent the past 2 years serving as PCC mission staff in Nepal, shares, "Our lives are not our own, but are gifts, and we are entrusted by God to be stewards of these gifts." Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are making a difference, thanks to the generosity of Presbyterians across Canada. Every gift matters!

Presbyterians Sharing is making a difference

From Rev. Joyce

I am writing this from my son's home in Grande Prairie, AB. Ken and I are enjoying time with family, but our main reason for choosing to take a vacation in Northern AB

the first week of January (instead of in a warm climate like most would be wise enough to do so at this time of year) is that my dad is celebrating his 85th birthday this week. It has been interesting to have conversations both with my dad and my

mother-in-law, as well as friends regarding age. At a time when many people are looking to make changes in their lives because a new year has started, it seems that a good number of others are not really thinking about the new year, but rather how much time they will likely have on this earth and what is important.

Many who are in the twilight years are not looking to make a big impact on the world, but rather to live contentedly and grateful for the comforts that they have. The biggest thing that has come across in conversations is the desire for connection. It is not that people need other people around them all the time. Still to know that someone has thought of you, taken the time for a phone call or a little visit helps them stay connected and feel that they have worth. For those who have full and busy lives it can take effort to remember those in our lives who have become less active or don't feature as prominently as they once did. So many suffer silently with loss of mobility and social contact.

Might I suggest that this year, 2019, you and I take time to connect with those who are feeling disconnected or maybe just need a little reminder that they have not been forgotten, they are valuable, and have much worth. A year of taking time to share and show love. Happy New Year, Joyce

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm