

HMC

KIDS

Parent Handbook

**Everything a parent needs to know about the Children's
Ministry at Home Moravian Church**



Introduction to HMC Kids

We believe that no one is too young to be influenced by God's work and the love of Jesus Christ.

From our littlest babies to our growing 5th graders, we seek to lay foundational biblical truth while guiding them in building relationships with other children and of course—Jesus! HMC Kids partners with parents and invests in children to raise authentic followers of Christ. Through creative environments, Bible lessons, prayer, relationships, and Godly Play we help to connect faith with life right where kids are. Jesus said, “Let the little children come unto me”. One of the best things you can do for your child is establish for yourself a habit of regular worship, Christian education, and service. We are happy that you are a part of HMC Kids!

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Home Moravian Church Ages & Stages

Nursery

Babies and Toddlers birth up to age 4

Nursery CE Building Main Floor

9:30 – 12:00 Sunday Morning

Faith Alive! *God Loves Me* Stories

This curriculum provides 52 storybooks designed for children ages 1-3 years old. Each book retells a Bible story in simple language that young children can understand, has a prayer, and suggestions for learning through play activities.

Stories from both the Old and New Testaments include God's creation, Abraham, Hannah, David, Simeon, Anna, Peter, Jesus' life and ministry, and Paul.

Weekly, children receive take home story cards that match the presented story. In this way, families and Home Moravian Church work together to nurture faith, establishing a devotional habit of Bible reading and prayer.



Home Moravian Church Ages & Stages

Godly Play Children's Church

Children aged 4 up to third grade

CE101 CE Building Main Floor

10:20-11:15 Sunday Morning

Children ages 4-8 leave worship at the designated time to attend Godly Play. Children's Ministry workers escort the children to the CE building from the Sanctuary.

Godly Play is an experiential workshop model based on the Montessori method. A Bible story is presented, using pieces that the storyteller moves around as the story unfolds. Children then reflect on that story using art, writing, or the story pieces.



Children Worship Bags

Sanctuary Vestibule

10:00 – 11:00 Sunday Morning

Recognizing that children are active learners, and that they are fully involved in the life of this congregation, children are welcome to be a part of weekly worship. Worship bags provide lectionary based activity sheets as well as drawing and manipulative opportunities for them. Bags may be left in the pew when children exit worship.

Home Moravian Church Ages & Stages

Children's Choir

Children aged 5 through 8

CE 101 CE Building Main Floor

11:15 – 12:00 Sunday Morning

Recognizing that children love music and participating in worship & praise, Children's Choir offers children ages 5 to 8 years old the opportunity to understand God through music and experience worship. It provides a deeper appreciation for truth communicated in an artistic context, instilling spiritual concepts through rhythm, rhyme, and repetition, locking the information in the brain for a lifetime.



Children's Choir Singing *Hosanna* Palm Sunday

Home Moravian Church Ages & Stages

Fun, Fellowship, & Service

Children aged 9 and 10

Upper Elementary School aged children have opportunities once a month to fellowship and serve the community around them. These opportunities help children understand how important serving in their community is. Never are we more like Jesus than when we serve.

Sunny Side Ministry Serve Project



We Value Your Child

We believe even though kids are small, they can achieve big things for God. We seek to partner with parents to help children, birth through 5th grade, become disciples of Jesus who LOVE, GROW, SERVE and SHARE. We invite your child to come and experience a safe and creative environment where they will encounter the life-changing story of God.

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

Our Children's Ministry Volunteers:

- Love God
- Love Children
- If 18 or older have completed the volunteer application and agreed to the Home Moravian Church Volunteer Covenant.
- Regular adult volunteers participate in a criminal background check and a drug test prior to volunteering with children. These volunteers are called "On-Going" Volunteers.
- Occasional volunteers (those who work irregularly) have signed the HMC Occasional Volunteer Covenant and must work under the direct supervision of a staff member or regular adult volunteer who has been screened.
- Youth Volunteers under the age of 18 must sign and agree to the HMC Youth Volunteer Covenant and be under the direct supervision of a staff member or regular volunteer who has been screened.
- All classrooms must have an individual who is at least 18 years of age.
- All classrooms observe the two-person rule when working with children at Home Moravian Church.



Parent Volunteers

As a parent, you may want to consider serving in the nursery as an occasional volunteer or serve as a Godly Play Storyteller. There are seasonal volunteer opportunities that include the annual Easter Celebration, Vacation Bible School, Camp Chaperones, and more. Please contact the Administrator for Christian Formation to learn more about these programs at 336-722-6171 or bhodes@homemoravian.org.

Food in the Classroom

Children are provided a snack each week following the story time. If your child has any food allergies, please complete the information on the Child Information Form and return to the regular volunteer in the classroom. Only water is served with snacks.



Infant Baptism in the Moravian Church

The Moravian Church practices baptism of infants through adults. If you have questions about baptism, a Home Church minister will be happy to talk with you at 336-722-6171.

For more information on Moravians and baptism, please visit the following site:
<http://www.moravian.org/faith-a->

General Safety & Security Check-In Process

Keeping HMC Kids safe each week is of paramount importance to us at Home Moravian Church. We will use the following process to enable our children to check in and out safely each week.

Nursery

Parents of Children birth through age 3 will check in at the Nursery located in the CE Building main hallway.

For your first time checking in, we ask you to provide some basic information on our Child Information Form and a phone number to text in case your child needs you. You'll then receive the nametags for your children and the pick-up number/badge for you. If your child needs you at any time throughout the morning, we will text you.

For the safety of our children, we ask parents to drop off at the classroom door. Because we value your child's safety, every Children's Ministry regular team member has been trained and undergone a background check. When you are ready to pick-up, simply walk to your child's classroom door and present your pick-up number/badge. The Children's Ministry team member will match your pick-up number to the number on your child's nametag. Children will be released only to the person presenting this pick-up number. If other people are allowed to pick up your child, please complete the Child Information Form with that information and we will create a pick-up number/badge for them as well.

Parents who would like to check on their child during class time may do so through the window or by asking a team leader to check on them. Parents coming into the classroom may upset other children.

Children aged 4 through 8 in Godly Play

Parents of children aged 4-8 will release their children to a Children's Ministry Team member in the sanctuary to attend Godly Play in CE 101.

For your first time checking in, we ask you to provide some basic information on our Child Information Form and a phone number to text in case your child needs you. You'll then receive the nametags for your children and the pick-up number/badge for you. If your child needs you at any time throughout the morning, we will text you. Because we value your child's safety, every regular Children's Ministry team member has been trained and undergone a background check.

Parents of children in Godly Play will keep the parent badge each week to present for pick up since your children do not check in at the CE Building. When you are ready to pick-up your child after service, simply walk to your child's classroom door and present your pick-up number/badge. The Children's Ministry team member will match your pick-up number to the number on your child's nametag. Children will be released only to the person presenting this pick-up number. If other people are allowed to pick up your child, please complete the Child Information Form with that information and we will create a pick-up number/badge for them as well.

Parents of children in Godly Play may observe in their child's classroom by making a request with the Regular Volunteer or Administrator for Christian Formation.

Contacting A Parent:

A parent will be contacted via text if:

- A child is sick
- A child will not stop crying
- There is a discipline issue that cannot be resolved and must be addressed with the parent immediately.

Child Wellness:

Children must be symptom free from the following illnesses without medication for 24 hours before entering the classroom:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye or other eye infection)
- Rash
- Nasal drainage that is green or yellow
- Sore throat
- Open sores
- Excessive coughing
- Lice

Home Moravian Church Protection Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults

HMC has adopted the Protection Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults to ensure the emotional, spiritual, and physical safety of its children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The staff has been trained in the policies. Additionally, all paid personnel and on-going (regular) volunteers have gone through background checks. A copy of the policy is available upon request.

Emergency Plans

If there is a crisis or emergency while children are in our care, the following guidelines will be followed:

Fire Emergencies: For Fire emergencies, all children will exit the CE Building by the designated escape route for their classroom.

Option 1: We will exit the front door of the CE Building and walk up the sidewalk towards God's Acre. We will gather the children in the yard of the parsonage. The children will remain there with their teachers until parents arrive.

Option 2: If access to the front door is blocked, we will exit to the rear. We will descend the back stairs and exit the CE Building at the lower level. We will walk the children to the yard of the parsonage. The children will remain there with their teachers until parents arrive.

Evacuation Emergencies: At times there may be a crisis that requires evacuation to farther distances (bomb threat or gas leak for example). In this situation, all children will exit the CE Building by the designated Fire Escape Routes. We will travel up the sidewalk into God's Acre and gather in the Band Meadow. The children will remain there with their teachers until their parents arrive.

Tornado Emergencies: In the event of a tornado, the children will shelter in place using the following options:

Option 1: Both Nursery and Godly Play will exit the classroom to the right and travel down the stairs to the hallway by the fellowship hall. The children will remain there with their teachers until the "all clear" allows them to return to their classrooms.

Option 2: If the threat is imminent and there is limited time to travel, children in the nursery will exit to the hallway outside their classroom and shelter in place until the "all clear" allows them to return inside the classroom. The children in Godly Play (CE 101) will exit to the hallway by the restrooms outside their classroom. The children will remain there with their teachers until the "all clear" allows them to return to their classrooms.

Lockdown Emergencies: If there is a threat within the building (intruder for example), the children will shelter in place inside their classrooms. The protocol will be to hide and barricade/lock doors and turn off the lights. If evacuation is directed by law enforcement, they may be evacuated to the evacuation emergency staging area in God's Acre (The Band Meadow). The children will remain there with their teachers until their parents arrive.

Ideas for Home

You are your child's primary influence in his/her faith development. Here are a few ideas to help you along the way:

- Pray for and with your child every day (morning, mealtimes, bedtime).
- Be regular in church attendance Sundays and Wednesdays if possible.
- Provide your child with religious music (instrumental CDs, Sunday School Songs, Kids Praise & Worship music, or Christian radio).
- Read Bible stories to your child and provide him/her with toys with Bible themes.
- Establish a quiet time for Bible reading and let your child see you having your quiet time with God.
- Emphasize the religious meanings of Holidays, particularly Christmas and Easter.
- Take your child with you when you “love your neighbor”. Any acts of charity or kindness may be done in the presence of your child.



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***“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a
reward from Him.” Psalm 127:3***

