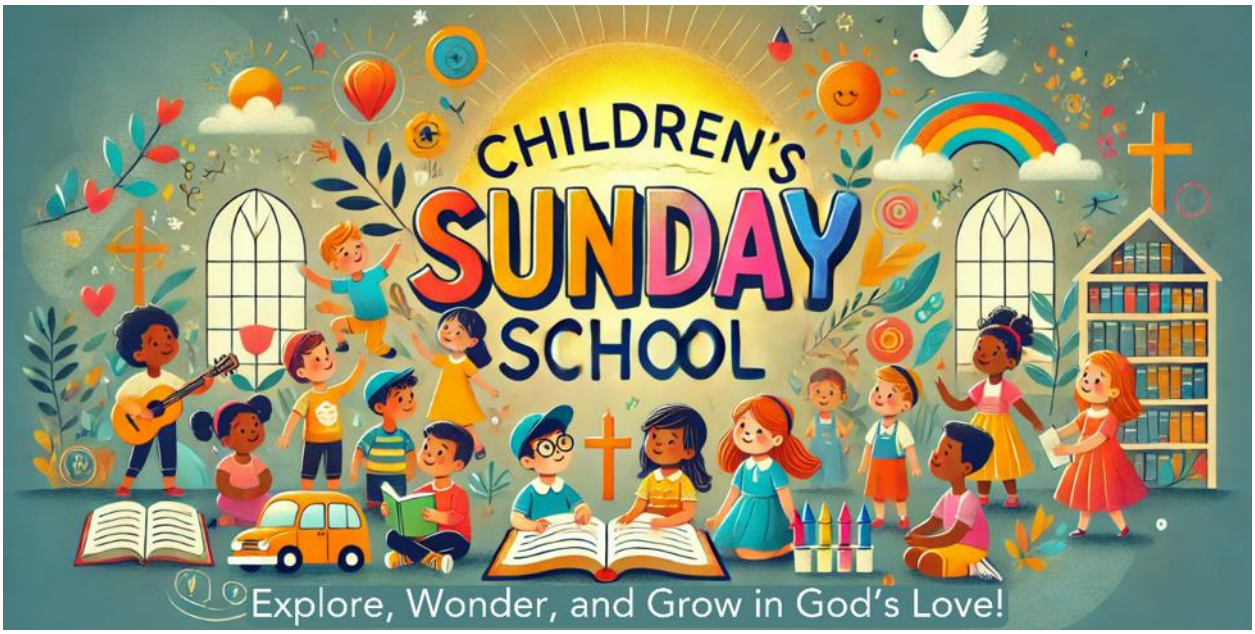


Children's Sunday School!

Our Preschool (Age 2 to PreK 5), Younger Elementary (Kindergarten to 2nd Grade), and Older Elementary (3rd to 5th Grade) children will meet for Sunday school to explore Bible stories, engage in meaningful activities, and grow in their faith through age-appropriate lessons and hands-on learning. The preschool class will meet in Room 305, the younger elementary class will meet in Room 214, and the older elementary class will meet in Room 212.

GODLY PLAY

Preschool and Younger Elementary Sunday School

Preschool and Younger Elementary classes will use the Godly Play curriculum to explore Bible stories through imaginative and interactive storytelling. Classes will begin in Room 304 and end their time in their separate classrooms.

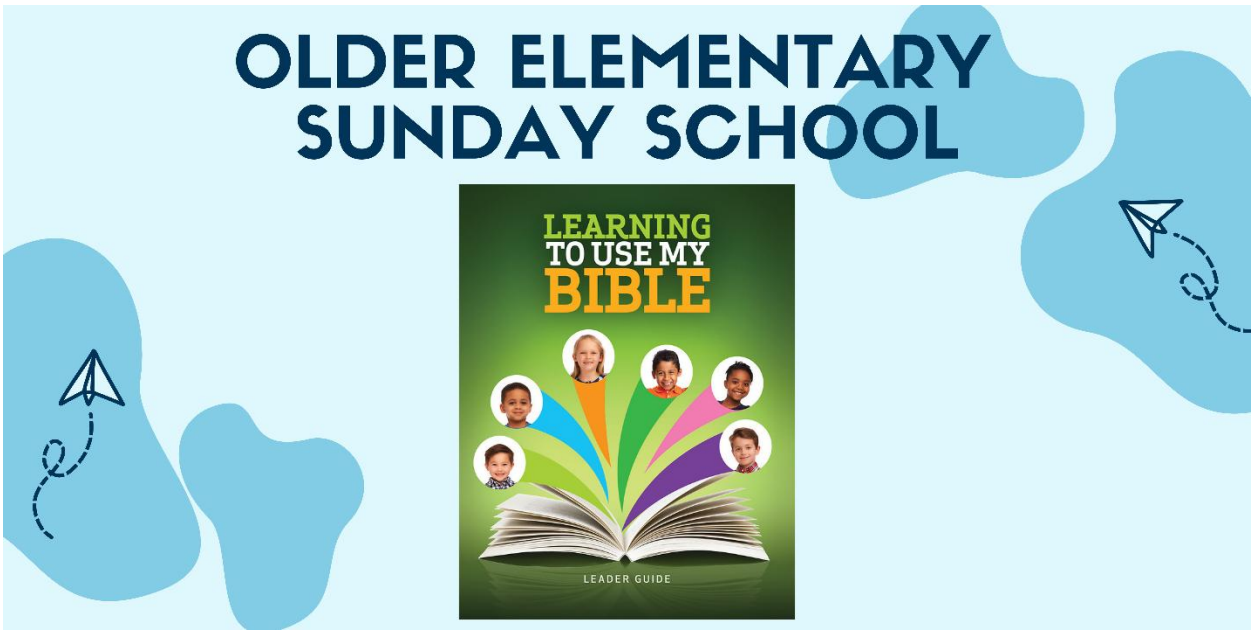
What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired approach to children's faith formation that invites them to explore Bible stories with wonder and imagination.

How It Supports Children's Spiritual Growth:

- **Engages Through Storytelling**: Uses hands-on materials to bring Bible stories to life.
- **Encourages Reflection**: Prompts children to wonder and connect personally with God's story.
- **Fosters Spiritual Growth**: Builds foundational skills for prayer, worship, and lifelong faith.
- **Creates a Safe Space**: Provides a calm, welcoming environment for creativity and community.

Godly Play nurtures children's faith by helping them see themselves as part of God's story in a meaningful and joyful way.



Older Elementary 8-Week Study!

Starting on Sunday, August 9th, our 3rd – 5th graders will begin an 8-week study titled, *Learning to Use My Bible*. This curriculum will help students acquire and practice skills that will help them understand how to use the Bible and build a foundation for studying the Bible.

Students – please bring your own Bible! If you do not have one that is CEB or NRSV, please let Pastor Hannah know.

Frolic Nursery: Little Steps, Big Faith

Our Nursery aged children (Birth to 1 year) will explore Frolic Nursery lessons. Drawing on brain science as well as theology, Frolic was designed by early childhood experts to build faith through play in babies, toddlers, and young children from birth to age five. Frolic uses Bible lessons, music, and play to help build a firm Faith foundation.

Start faith formation at birth

Uses a curriculum-based on early childhood best practices to help your little ones to take little steps to big faith—starting at birth.

Focuses on learning at their level

Frolic's curriculum focuses on helping young children explore faith concepts in the way they know best— through play!

Equips caregivers to nurture faith

Equips leaders and parents to nurture faith in many ways—through storytelling, prayers, and music.

Kids Connection is this Wednesday Night!

Need a break from a hectic week? Don't feel like cooking? Searching for community? Bring your family to Wednesday Night Together! Children will meet from 6:00-7:00 for a time of connection, fun and games, and life application in the gym.

Fun & Games with Hannah & David!

Join us for a family-friendly game night on October 14th, 21st, and 28th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Room 502. Each week, a new card game will be taught! Children, Youth, and College Students eat free from 5:00-6:00.

Fall Festival is November 14th!

St. Mark's Fall Festival will be on Saturday, November 14th from 4-6 p.m.! All ages are invited to attend. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends!

If your adult Christian Education class or group can host a carnival game, please email Hannah Underwood by Sunday, October 11th. An email will be sent out to adult Christian Education classes/ministry leaders in the following weeks with more information.

<u>Fall Festival Donations</u>

St. Mark's Family Ministries is collecting the following items for the upcoming Fall Festival:

- Candy
- Yum Earth Allergy Free Candy
- Prizes for children
- Monetary donations to help cover additional costs

Please place all donations in the blue bins located in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting this community event!

Little Lights and G.L.O.W. Kids!

<u>Little Lights</u>

This service/fellowship group is for families with children age birth to 2nd grade. This is a family friendly group! Adults must remain with their child throughout the duration of the event. Invite a friend! Click here for the schedule.

- **October 17th @ 8 a.m. to 12 p.m**. – **For children age 6 and up** – Little Lights and Glow Kids will go to Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville to pack food bags for at-risk children in surrounding school systems. Meet at the church van at 7:45 a.m. **Please RSVP to Hannah by October 5th.**
- **October 18th @ 4 – 5 p.m.** – Little Light families will pack food boxes for St. Mark's food pantry. All Little Light ages are welcome to attend! **RSVP to Hannah by October 12th.**

G.L.O.W. Kids

This service/fellowship group is for children in 3rd – 5th grade. Invite a friend! Click here for the schedule.

- **October 17th @ 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. –** Glow Kids will travel to Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville to pack bags for their BackPack Program. This program assists at-risk children in the Middle Tennessee area. Meet at the church van at 7:45 a.m. **Please RSVP to Hannah by October 5th.**

SAFER SANCTUARIES
Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities

Help St. Mark's be a Safe Sanctuary to all people entrusted to our care!

- Keep empty rooms locked
- Sign children in and out of classrooms
- Supervise your children at all times
- Accompany your children to the Restroom

Help St. Mark's be a Safe Sanctuary to all people entrusted to our care!

Ways you can help:

- Keep empty rooms locked
- Sign children in and out of classrooms
- Supervise your children at all times
- Accompany your children to the Restroom
- Help us observe the two-adult rule at all times by serving as a Safe Sanctuaries helper
- If you see any behavior that seems abusive or inappropriate, inform a ministry leader

Please contact Rev. Hannah Underwood at hannah@stmarkstn.org if you have any questions. Follow our St. Mark's Children's Ministry Facebook page and Instagram @stmarkstnkids for more information!

ST. MARK'S KIDS