

St. John's United Methodist Church
Children's Choir Information
2017-2018

Introduction: This year the Music Ministry of St. John's UMC will be offering a graded Children's Choir program for young musicians ages 3 years old through the fifth grade. The three age-appropriate ensembles will instill and build upon basic musical and spiritual principles in hopes of creating lifelong musicians for the church. The rehearsals for all ensembles will incorporate some type of instruction on music theory, worship participation, hymn education, and vocal training. They will also make use of various types of instruments during rehearsals and performances. If you have any questions, please contact Justin Addington at jaddington@stjohnsrh.org.

The Cherub Choir: This ensemble is for children ages 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5K. This group is intended as a means of introducing children to the joys of music. The Cherub Choir will prepare singers for membership in the Junior Choristers by teaching them basic musical concepts and simple bible songs. The Cherub Choir will be taught by Crystal Green and Emily Bell and meet in Under the Sea (Room #237).

The Junior Choristers: This choral ensemble is for young people grades 1-2. This group will sing in worship on a bi-monthly basis, and participate in other special programs throughout the year. Rehearsals will focus on music theory, vocal techniques, worship participation, hymn education, and unison anthems. The Junior Choristers will be taught by Betsy Forrest and Sharon Mitchell, and accompanied by Mary Beth Batson. Junior Choristers will meet in Australia (Room #240).

The Senior Choristers: This choral ensemble is for young people grades 3-5. This group will sing in worship on a bi-monthly basis, and participate in other special programs throughout the year. Rehearsals will focus on music theory, vocal techniques, worship participation, hymn education, and two part anthems. The Senior Choristers will be taught by Justin Addington and Kristi Cutler, and accompanied by Kathy Hyatt. Senior Choristers meet in Africa (Room #235).

Weekly Rehearsals: Weekly rehearsals are held on **Sundays from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm**. Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children at rehearsal, with the exception of those participating in iServe. Parents are also welcome to sit in and observe rehearsals. The only rule for rehearsals is RESPECT (each other, directors, God's house, musical equipment, and the art of music).

Sunday Morning Routine: On the Sundays when the children sing, they are asked to be in the Chapel at 10:30 am unless instructed otherwise. After a brief rehearsal, they will proceed to the Sanctuary for the 11:00 am worship service. Junior and Senior Choristers are expected to remain for the entire worship service.

Attire: When the choirs sing in worship, we hope to have robes for them to wear. Underneath the robes, we ask that all singers wear black pants with flat black shoes and socks, and white a dress shirt.

Parent Help: The most important thing you can do to insure your child's most positive experience in choir is to make sure they attend all rehearsals. Parents can also set a wonderful example by making worship attendance a top priority. Please refer to the checklist on your child's registration form for other ways you can help, and watch your e-mail for important information regarding the choirs. Also, please encourage your child to listen to any recordings that we occasionally post on the church website to reinforce the music we are learning.

Dates of Performances: At this time, all children's choirs are scheduled to sing on Children's Sabbath (**October 22nd**). Junior and Senior Choristers will sing on Lessons and Carols (**December 17th**), and Palm Sunday (**March 25th**). Please add these dates to your calendars and plan accordingly. Also, please watch your email and newsletter for possible additional performance dates and dates when rehearsals may be cancelled.

