

## Children's Ministry 2021

Similar to 2020, Children's Ministry looked very different in 2021 than previous years due to the challenges that COVID presented. Even so, **we are grateful for the in-person events and programs we were able to offer children and families in mid-to-late-2021** after having to operate in a virtual capacity for over a year. These in-person gatherings included Vacation Bible School, Summer cooking/art camps, a Christmas Craft party, Trunk-or-Treat, Operation Christmas Child packing parties, and a new weekly youth group for preteens in the fall!

### VBS & Other Events

With hopes to have an in-person Vacation Bible School in 2021, Children's Ministry decided in the spring to push VBS back to August. This caution paid off, as we were able to offer a fully in-person week of Vacation Bible School on August 8-12! As an additional precaution, the program was restructured with a mix of traditional, children-only days (pictured), and days that consisted of outdoor family stations at Pettibone Park, Black River Beach, etc. Overall, 49 children participated in VBS 2021!



Children's ministry also hosted some additional outreach events for children & families in the latter-half of 2020, including cooking and art camps in the summer, Trunk-or-Treat on October 24, and a Christmas Craft party in December. **We are grateful for all of the leadership and volunteers that made all of our 2021 in-person events both possible and low-risk!**

### Preteen Youth Group

Looking ahead to another pandemic fall, and with Cindi reducing her hours (see below), Youth Director Alex decided to launch a 5-week series of youth group meetings for preteens (ages 9-12) beginning in September. The students had such a fun time at this program, we added a second set of 5 additional meetings in November and December. The students spent two hours playing games, sharing a meal together, making crafts (pictured), and learning about God as our Creator (in September & October) and what made Jesus special (in November & December). **The Children's Ministry Team is grateful for Libby and Taryn Winga, who volunteered their time and leadership to co-lead these meetings each and every week!** Because the 10 meetings were so well-received by students, the Session approved additional funds for Children's Ministry to continue this Preteen Youth Group all throughout 2022!



### **A Special Thanks to Cindi!**

What also made 2021 unique was that Cindi Kyte (pictured in a still from a 2021 Virtual Sunday School video) stepped down as Director of Children's Ministry after nearly two decades of serving children and families in that role. Cindi's gentleness, creativity, and positive energy made her an invaluable resource to Children's Ministry and the church as a whole! We cannot emphasize how grateful and blessed we are for her! Although we will miss her extensive involvement in Children's Ministry, we are grateful that she will continue to serve on the Team and in other areas of First Pres's ministry.



**Children's Ministry Team in 2021:** Sheryl Solberg, Kelli Jerve, Danielle Sprain, Jade Moseti, Theresa Frost, and Cindi Kyte.