

H A N D B O O K



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2019-2020 Family Guide

Skills developed in Children's Choir lead to a lifetime enjoyment of praising God through music.



SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

A welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives.

Skills developed in Children's Choir lead to a lifetime enjoyment of praising God through music.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir at Second Presbyterian Church offers a music curriculum nurturing the spiritual and artistic growth of children age four through fifth grade. Children receive instruction in music reading, notation, rhythmic and vocal training, and ensemble skills like part-singing, tuning and blending. In addition, children deepen their familiarity with scripture and worship.

Children's choirs meet on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. service (following "Time with Children" in the worship service) September through May.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CLASSES

Cherub Choir, Lower Elementary | Ages 4-1st Grade, Room 312

Carol Baker, director | Tom Ristine and Luke Nargang, accompanists

This playful approach to music learning will help children reach their potentials in singing, vocabulary development, and motor skills, while developing an understanding of church music and worship participation. We introduce singing (head) voice, harmony through partner songs and simple canons, and music literacy. Children will discover worship as a place where people express love for God and experience the Bible, its stories, people, passages, and verses as a part of their everyday lives.

Carol Choir, Upper Elementary | 2nd-5th Grade, Room 112

Brianna Holt, director | Walker Demel, accompanist

Children develop musical skills in music reading, notation, rhythmic and vocal training, and ensemble skills like part-singing, tuning, and blending. Children will understand worship as a proclamation of God's Word and their role as music ministers in service. Children build a working knowledge of repeated liturgical practice, contents of the hymnal, and specific age-appropriate hymns and what they mean, as well as enhance their understanding of the power of music to express feelings, tell stories, and call people to Christian discipleship.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Both children's choirs participate in Sunday morning services. (See schedule on Page 7.) When choirs participate in service, choirs may meet in their rehearsal rooms earlier in the morning and/or be dismissed earlier than usual. Parents will be advised in advance of special instructions, including special call times and volunteer needs. Note: When choirs participate in worship services, children will normally wear choir robes provided for each singer at no charge. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather, keeping in mind that it can get warm wearing a robe. Participants should wear dark, closed-toed shoes.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Second Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives:

- through *worship*, as we praise and glorify God;
- through *mission*, as we embody God's love in service to the world;
- through *study*, as we listen for God's Word;
- through *giving*, as we express gratitude to God;
- through *fellowship*, as we love and care for one another.

In addition to Sunday morning worship services, choirs may participate in other special events, such as singing at Together@5, presenting musical offerings in other parts of the community, and performing in the annual Spring Concert or Musical. In past years, Children's Choir has shared Christmas Carols at the Presbyterian Women Fall Sale and at Ronald McDonald House's Family Holiday Party. We may also share music with friends at an area senior living center as part of the Pastoral Care Music Ministry program. Making and sharing music is a great way to worship, serve, study, give, and care for one another.

Parents are encouraged to make suggestions and lead opportunities for Children's Choir Music Ministry. Please bring your ideas to your child's choir director. All opportunities must be approved, according to church policies.

ATTENDANCE

Each week, Children's Choir directors work with your child to build musical skills, knowledge of the church's musical tradition, as well as components of the worship service, and prepare children to sing in worship together. Therefore, consistent attendance is encouraged. We understand illnesses and family trips may preclude a child from attending a rehearsal. If it becomes necessary to miss several rehearsals in a relatively short period of time, please contact the choir director to alert him or her.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers provide invaluable assistance during Children's Choir classes. Duties include escorting children from Sanctuary to classrooms, recording attendance, distributing and collecting materials, helping children with any personal issues that arise during rehearsal, and assisting with robing and processing on worship Sundays. To maintain a healthy, safe environment, we require all volunteers to complete the church's [Volunteer Approval Process](#).

SPECIFIC AREAS OF NEED MIGHT INCLUDE:

Robing Team

- Assign robes to children and check that the robe still fits midway through year
- Assist with the dress and aesthetics of robes before and after each service. Younger children require additional help. Following service singing, ensure robes are returned to the rack and stored in children's robing room.
- Repair and maintain robes and stoles as needed.

Photography Team

- Capture formal and informal pictures of children participating in Children's Choir activities and in the life of the church.

Music Shepherds

- Assist choir director with classroom flow and child participation.

Snack Team

- Coordinate snacks for children following service singing (approximately 6 times/year)

Relations Team

- Coordinate the welcoming of new and returning choir families.
- Host 1-2 family fun gatherings throughout the year.

SIGNUPGENIUS – *SignUpGenius* is a tool used by the church to schedule volunteers for various missions, programs, and educational opportunities. Occasionally, Children's Choir will administer volunteer scheduling through *SignUpGenius*. To find the church's direct *SignUpGenius* link, go to <https://www.secondchurch.org/volunteer>.

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT TEAM - The Children's Choirs benefit from the wise counsel and support of the Children's Music Leadership Support Team – made up of parents, grandparents, and other adult volunteers. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Brianna Holt at BHolt@SecondChurch.org.

WHAT TO WEAR

When choirs participate in worship services, children normally wear choir robes, provided by the church. Robing material is a polyester blend with Velcro fasteners. These are stored in the Children's Choir Robing Room attached to the Choir Room. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather, but keep in mind that robes can be rather warm. Be sure that children are able to remove additional layers before robing (i.e. sports coats, jackets, etc.) Participants should wear dark, closed-toed shoes.

Children will be fitted with robes at the beginning of the season and again later in the season in response to growth. The robe hems usually fall within 4-7 inches from the floor.

There are three types of stoles used by Children's Choir.

- Lower Elementary children wear the **cross stole** (or yokette) fastening in the back with 2 snaps.
- Upper Elementary children wear the **v-shaped stole** and Section Leaders wear **long stoles**. Long stoles are snapped on the robe collar to keep it from sliding.

Robe care is the responsibility of parents. Once removed, robes must be returned neatly to its hanger.

YOUR CHILD

Your Children's Choir directors are enrolled in creating an excellent faith-filled musical experience for your child. In addition to your child's Sunday School class, Children's Choir is a great way for your child to experience and participate in a church "small group" – as we make friends, share joys and concerns, and learn together. Thank you for giving your child this experience!

Please let your Choir Director know if your child has any special needs (i.e. health, allergy, sensory, etc.) We ask parents to complete enrollment forms each year. The safety and well-being of your child while in our care is our number one concern.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTORS

Ms. Brianna Holt | BHolt@SecondChurch.org

Brianna Holt is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. She graduated from North Central High School in 2013 and was a member and co-president of the top choir, the Counterpoints. Brianna received a Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, with minors in Conducting and Theatre & Drama.

During much of her time in college, she was a section leader in the choir at First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, Indiana. Brianna was the Director of Choirs at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis for the 2017-2018 school year. This past summer, Brianna directed the Summer Choir at Second Presbyterian on occasion and helped lead music for VBS. In addition to being the Director of Children's Music, Brianna also serves as the Music Worship Leader for the Together@5 service.

Ms. Carol Baker | CBaker@SecondChurch.org

As an arts education and non-profit management specialist, Carol Baker enjoys strengthening communities through supporting and cultivating meaningful civic and arts education activities. Having served as director of education for Indianapolis Symphony, Carmel Center for the Performing Arts, and Indianapolis Opera, Ms. Baker has also served as a program, board, and grants consultant for non-profit organizations, and as Marketing Manager with Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Baker holds a Master of Public Affairs from IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a Bachelor of Music Education from University of Louisville. In addition, Ms. Baker has completed training in Aesthetic Education through Lincoln Center Institute and early childhood music from Dr. John Feierabend, creator of the *First Steps in Music* program. In 2006, Ms. Baker received an Arts Council Creative Renewal Fellowship.

IMPORTANT DATES, 2019-2020*

Children's Choir Start Day - September 8

October 6	Sing for Morning Worship (World Communion Sunday)
November 3	Sing for Morning Worship
December 7	Christmas Music Sunday Rehearsal (SATURDAY 10 AM)
December 8	Children's Christmas Music Sunday; Sing for Morning Worship

December 15, 22, 29 – Christmas Break (no Children's Choir)

January 5	Spring Semester Begins
February 9	Sing for Morning Worship
March 22	Sing for Morning Worship

April 12 – Easter (no Children's Choir)

May 2	Spring Concert Rehearsal (SATURDAY 9 AM)
May 3	Spring Concert
May 10	Sing for Morning Worship (Mother's Day)

Children's Choir End Day – May 10

*Subject to change



Chorister's Prayer

Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants, who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Published in the School of English Church Music Choristers' Pocket Book, 1934.)

MUSIC AND FINE ARTS STAFF

Dr. Michelle L. Louer, Director of Music and Fine Arts, (317) 253-6461 ext. 307 | MLouer@SecondChurch.org

Dr. John Allegar, Organist and Assistant Director of Music, (317) 253-6461 ext. 310 | JAllegar@SecondChurch.org

Ms. Brianna Holt, Director of Children's Music, (317) 253-6461 ext. 356 | BHolt@SecondChurch.org

Ms. Carol Baker, Cherub Choir Director, (317) 253-6461 ext. 356 | CBaker@SecondChurch.org

Ms. Hannah Arnold, Music and Fine Arts Ministry Assistant, (317) 253-6461 ext. 309 | HArnold@SecondChurch.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Music and Fine Arts at 317-253-6461 x309, mfa@SecondChurch.org or visit www.SecondChurch.org

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