

Fun for the whole family!

Throughout the year, several family events are planned for our Northminster family. All children are invited; however, we ask that parents accompany children to the events and encourage you to connect with other parents during these times. Watch for event announcements in the church bulletin, newsletter and online at www.npctucson.org and Kids@NPC on Facebook.



This year's events include:

- ◆ **All Worship Sunday Experience:** On the first Sunday of each month, unless informed otherwise, we invite our whole congregation to worship together at the service of your choice. Note, this will occur **November 15, March 27** (in lieu of April) and **May 8** so that we may celebrate Consecration Sunday, Easter and Mother's Day together.
- ◆ **Family Service Projects:** Once each quarter we invite families to join together in service to share God's love with our community through various projects and events. Stay connected through Northminster News, Kids@NPC Facebook page and the Vine & Branches to learn more as they occur.
- ◆ **Reformation Weekend:** October 23-25 is our fall event celebrating our Reformation heritage that includes activities and food for all ages.
- ◆ **Greet 'N Treat:** October 31 will be our 12th annual fun and safe Halloween costume event for children and their parents.
- ◆ **Children's Christmas Program:** On December 20 we invite you to celebrate with us as the children share the story of the birth of our Savior.
- ◆ **Easter Celebration:** This party includes 'egg-citing' activities, the Easter story, games and refreshments.
- ◆ **All-Church Picnic:** The entire Northminster family is invited to attend this Annual Spring Picnic, full of fun and

**WE HOPE
YOU'LL
PLAN TO
JOIN US!**

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Parent Handbook



2015-2016

Welcome to Desert Stream Kids@NPC

Birth—5th grade

Our Mission

*To welcome children in the love of Jesus,
nurture them in the Word of God,
and send them in the power of the Holy Spirit so
they may walk with God and live in His love.*

Every aspect of Children's Ministry reflects this mission in the curriculum that is chosen, the teachers who are selected, and the classroom policies that have been adopted. We pray that you and your family will be blessed in becoming life-long disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and love others.

Our Values

Excellence: We passionately deliver superior quality family ministries with an intentional focus on God.

Boldness: We discover God's leading and courageously take risks to advance God's Kingdom.

Transformation: We celebrate God changing lives as people grow in Christ.

Intentionality: We purposefully and deliberately focus on designing excellent family ministries, persevering with God's help.

Mission: We send every person as a missionary, living our faith daily.

Community: We welcome all in fellowship and create loving relationships through sharing in one another's journey of faith.

Collaboration: We share in the design and implementation of ministry.

Legacy: We invest in the lives of children and youth to pass on faith in Jesus Christ to all generations.



What you can expect from us!

- Respectful and caring volunteers who have a passion to teach your child about Jesus Christ.
- Volunteers who complete training, including background check.
- Certified and paid nursery care providers.
- Safe and loving environment.
- An atmosphere where all kids feel welcome to talk with adults about anything.
- Open communication between children/teacher and parents/guardians.

What we would like from you!

- A partnership between us so that together we can teach children to become life-long disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Participation in providing exciting spiritual experiences for kids to grow confident in their faith and walk with Jesus Christ.
- Your presence on the Northminster campus when your child is in the nursery.
- Annual completion of the Children's Ministry registration form.
- Updates on any changes that occur in the year, including any changes of contact information and especially regarding the medical needs of your child.



Discipline Philosophy

The word “discipline” means to make a disciple. This involves teaching a child to live properly before God and in all aspects of life. At Northminster, we want children to internalize the Biblical principles we teach and to grow in their personal relationship with God. Only the Holy Spirit accomplishes a change in heart. However, structure, boundaries, and consequences help develop habits of godly behavior. We believe that when children know what is expected of them, we are able to create a peaceful, loving environment where all children can safely learn, grow, make friendships and be the best they can be.

Be respectful of the teacher, classmates, and self.

"Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. *Matthew 7:12*

Be kind with your words and actions.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

Be respectful of the classroom and materials.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. *1 Cor. 10:26*

At those times when we must correct a child's behavior, it is done in a manner that maintains the child's dignity and communicates that we care about them and love them enough to expect better.

If a child's behavior requires further attention, parents will be notified and a meeting requested to discuss solutions.

Creating Christian Community

One of the greatest assets a church can offer is the strength, support, ministry, unity and diversity of a Christ-centered community in this very “real” world. The Children's Ministries at Northminster are not just for the children attending our programs. We are a growing, changing, thriving community of families, in all the forms they take.

Through the common bond of raising children, we have the opportunity to connect with, learn from, teach and enjoy each other on and off campus. We encourage you to take time to meet some of your fellow child-rearing church-goers at the many family opportunities presented throughout the year, including times of fellowship preceding and following each worship service.

Forging friendships with other Christians in similar (as well as differing) stages of life can prove to be invaluable, both to parents and to children, now and for years to come. Through watching their parents in godly friendship, our children learn to value, care for and lift up their peers.

As they develop bonds in these church-based groups, kids begin to identify their own roles in the Northminster family. They grow more and more connected with



the church body through these social and learning opportunities, creating a foundation for life-long discipleship. This deep connection and foundation in the church is what helps to ensure its future.

Policies /Procedures

Registration

No one likes filling out forms; however, it is vitally important that we have the **most current contact for you and medical/ food allergy information for your child.** This not only helps keep your children safer, it gives you (and us) more peace of mind. Please fill out a new registration form **every year** for your family. Forms are available at the information table in the Children’s Courtyard, in the classrooms, and in the Church Office.

The image shows a registration form for Northminster Church for the 2019-2020 school year. It includes fields for child's name, grade, and family information. There is a section for medical conditions and allergies, and a section for family information including mother's and father's names and phone numbers. The form also has checkboxes for medical conditions and allergies, and a section for family information.

Promotion to the Next Grade

Bible Blast students are promoted to their new classrooms the second Sunday in August. We ask that you respect this policy by patiently waiting until Promotion Sunday to take your children to their new rooms.

Children attending the 8am, 11am, or 1pm worship services may begin attending Worship & Wonder when they reach age 4.

Snacks

Typical snacks include Goldfish and pretzels, although we do offer other things from time to time. **Please use the registration form to alert us of any food allergies or any other dietary restrictions.** Parents are also welcome to provide food for their own children if they deem it necessary.

Summertime Fun

Vacation Bible School

Ages 4* years—5th grade
June 13-17



Do you come for the innovative crafts, spirited games, zany skits, yummy snacks or challenging Bible messages? Who cares-it’s all there and you know you’ll have fun learning about God and making new friends.

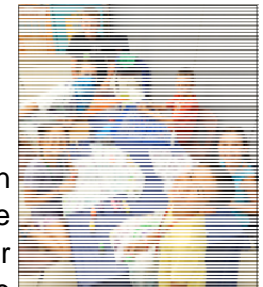
Vacation Bible School is held in early June each year. Set in a captivating theme setting, children have fun and excitement while developing a much deeper understanding of our God and the importance of living for and through Him.

A minimal participation fee covers all activity materials and snacks. Children are encouraged to participate in an optional free-will offering as part of the annual VBS mission project.

Parents are invited to join children on VBS Celebration Sunday, June 19, as children share their experience and a favorite VBS song in worship and an exciting VBS theme-related event.

Summer Arts Camp

Ages 4* years—5th grade
July 19-21; Gallery Night July 22



Held in late July. This camp focuses on creativity and design under the instruction of our talented Northminster volunteers. Elementary students choose three workshops from a list of varied options and rotate through those classes each day. Four and five year-olds enjoy a morning of imaginative projects, stories and music. *We welcome new classes and ideas. Feel free to contact us if you would like to teach!*

**Children must be age 4 by June 1 of the current year to attend Vacation Bible School and/or Summer Arts Camp.*

Wednesday Nights

Midweek Friends

Ages 4* years—5th grade 6:00-7:30pm

Fall session, September 16—November 17

Spring session, January 13—March 16

Join us as we look at how the Bible teaches us to live through creating sensory environments and providing fresh content to tell the greatest story of all time in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Through creative dining experiences, exciting activities, fun games, reflective prayer and thoughtful sharing, children will experience Scripture like never before. This year we will dig deep into God's fruit of the Spirit.

Parents are welcome to participate in the Midweek Friends team or attend one of the Wednesday night adult ministry classes.

**Children must be four years old by August 1st of the current year in order to participate.*

Stewardship

Isaiah 1:17 exhorts us to “Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” This scripture easily pierces the heart, but if we aren't careful, we will become indifferent to it as we become consumed by our own lives. Now is the time for your children to learn to give beyond themselves and care about the needs of others, not only in theory, but in tangible ways as well. Children's



Ministry sponsors a little girl named Shewanesh through Compassion International. Each Sunday morning, your child will have the opportunity to see a picture of her and to give money toward her care. Please pray with your children weekly for this young lady and help them find ways they might give.

Keeping them Safe

Checking-In and Checking-Out

At Northminster, we truly love each and every child, which leads us to see that they are safe not only spiritually, but physically as well. In order to accomplish this, **we must have parents/guardians sign their children in and out of class and activities.** Older siblings will not be allowed to sign in or out younger children.

If you authorize another adult to sign out your child, please inform the ministry leader or classroom teacher when you check-in your child

The Playground

Families are welcome to enjoy the playground. However, please be aware that it is not supervised, except during class play time. Please stay with your children if they are going to play in the courtyard at other times.



Photography

Photos of children participating in our programs are often taken and shared through our website, publications and Facebook page for promotional/informational purposes. If you do not want photos of your child to be taken and/or disseminated, please indicate appropriately on your child's registration form.

Sundays At Northminster

Nursery Care

Birth—3 years

We know how precious children are to the heart of God. They are dear to us, as well. Because of this, our main mission is to ensure that each child experiences the love of Jesus through the nurturing and attentive care they receive in our nursery. Children may be checked in 15 minutes prior to each service.

During the 9:30am worship service, our 2 & 3 year old children will be escorted by a teacher down the hall to Room 4

to enjoy Bible BLAST TOO, a miniature version of our Bible BLAST lesson. This 20-30 minute “breakout” will offer them a smooth transition from nursery care to Bible BLAST.



Worship & Wonder

Ages 4 years—2nd grade

This is our Children’s Church program, offered during the 8am, 11am and 1pm* worship services. At 8am and 1pm, children initially attend the main

worship service in the Sanctuary with their families until they are excused to go to Children’s Church, escorted by their teacher from the Sanctuary to Room 7 at 8am or Room 9 at 1pm. At 11am, children go directly to Children’s Church prior to the start of the service. In Worship and Wonder, kids participate in worship tailored to their age through music, prayer, Scripture reading, Bible stories, crafts and games. This children’s service helps prepare them for full participation in worship services in the Sanctuary. Parents, please sign your children in and out accordingly for each worship service. Worship & Wonder concludes directly after the service.

*1pm Arise Kids does not observe All Worship Sunday schedule

Bible BLAST

Ages 4 years—5th grade

Meeting Sunday mornings at 9:30am, Bible BLAST classes are determined by age and staffed with two dedicated teachers. Each class is aimed at introducing students to God, developing a deep knowledge of Him, and equipping them to spend a lifetime in relationship with Him.



Our Bible BLAST classes are setting out on a new adventure this school year! We are excited to begin new monthly Mission & Ministry Sundays as well as seasonal Family Fun Sunday events. These new components of our Sunday curriculum, will provide practical, hands-on opportunities to learn what following Jesus is really about.

Choraliers Children’s Choir

Ages 3rd grade—8th grade

In Choraliers, students learn how to sing, understand music notation, play classroom instruments and move to the music. Children express themselves as they build self-confidence and teamwork, as well as experiencing the joy of making music in a Christian environment.



Led by accomplished music teacher, Gloria Day, students participate in worship, as scheduled, throughout the school year and in the annual Christmas program. Choraliers Children’s Choir meets in the Music Rehearsal Room in the Multi-Purpose Building, 10:30-11:15am.

Please note that in order for your child to sing in the Christmas program, they must join rehearsals by **September 20.*