

Children in Worship!

Engaged. Equipped. Empowered.

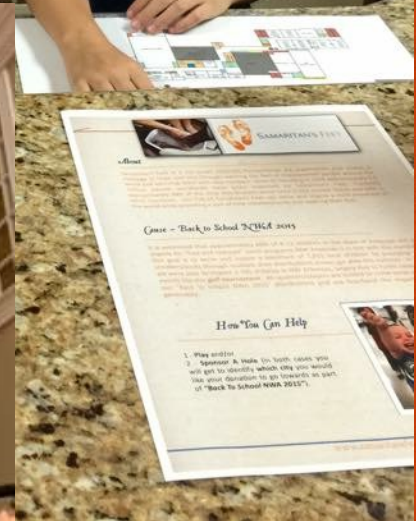
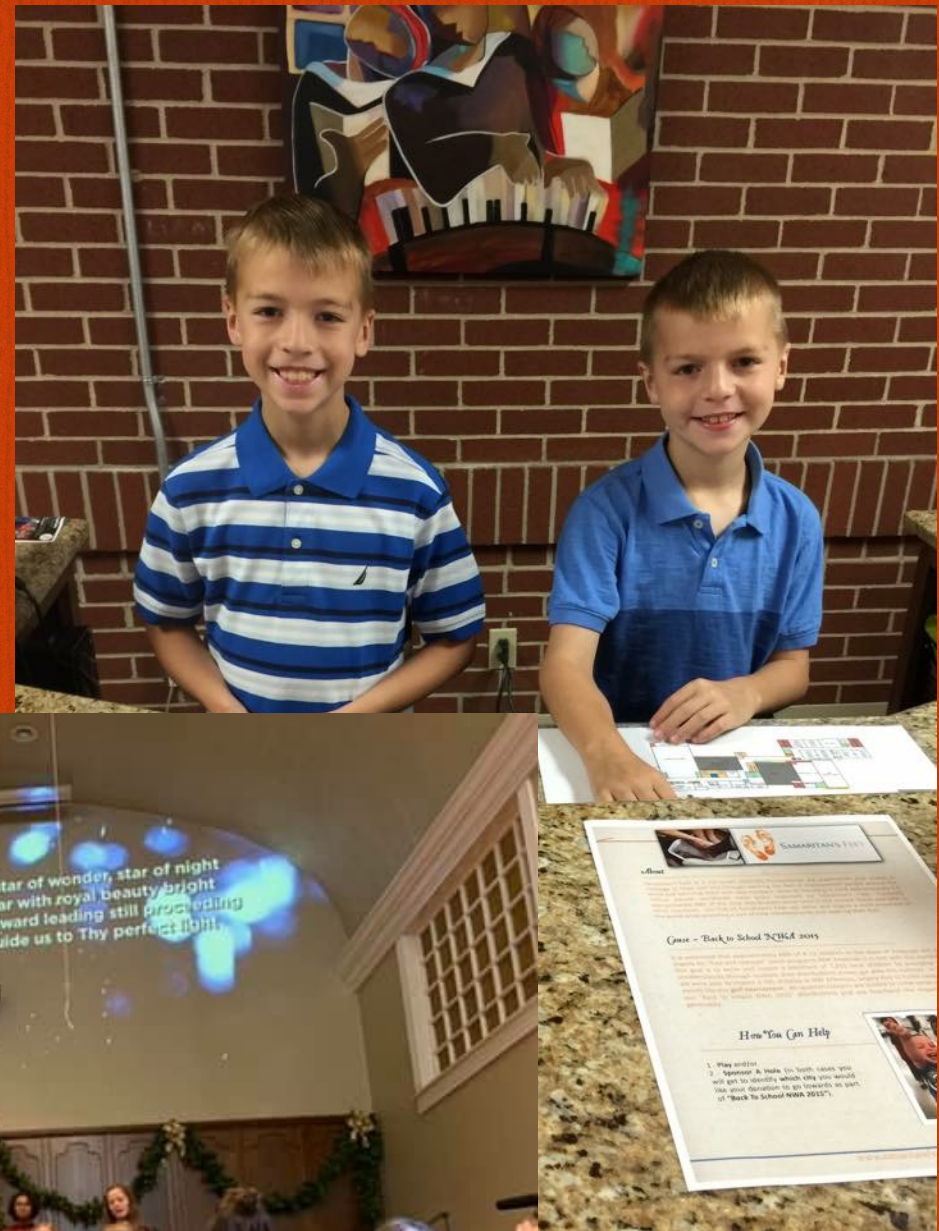
What We Will Cover



- Children in existing worship
- A new model: family worship

Barriers to Meaningful Worship

- ❑ Text-heavy bulletins with big words
- ❑ Long periods of sit-and-listen/be still/be quiet
- ❑ Hymns with words they don't understand
- ❑ Grumpy, disapproving faces
- ❑ Adult-only leadership



Engagement!

- ❑ Leadership/serving roles
- ❑ Accessible bulletins: symbols for each element of worship. Include kids' art. Break up the text!
- ❑ Visual aides: liturgical calendar
- ❑ Interactive prayers, stories, songs
- ❑ Accessible affirmations
- ❑ Interaction with sermon

Interactive Scripture- Examples



- “Amen”/“Ah-man” with story of Ruth and Naomi
- “Buzzer”: buzz me when I say it wrong, i.e. “Zacchaues was a very tall man.”
- Abram and Sarai: change the way you’re sitting every time you hear the word “change.”

Interactive Prayers



- ❑ Wiggle Prayer
- ❑ Tracing prayer
- ❑ Grudge prayer
- ❑ Help Me Slow Down
- ❑ Help Me Be Softer (before baptism or communion- “quieter” moments of worship)
- ❑ Everything That Breathes

We believe in God who loves us and wants us to love each other. This is our God.

We believe in Jesus who cared about children and held them in his arms. He wanted a world where everyone could live together in peace. This is Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who keeps working with us until everything is good and true. This is the Holy Spirit.

We can be the church which reminds people of God because we love each other.

Amen



Children First

FUMC • BENTONVILLE

Children First Family Worship

Accessible for children.
Meaningful for adults.

Children First.
First Sunday of Every Month.
First United Methodist Church.

Worshipping as the *family* of God.

#childrenfirst #NWAchurchforchildren
#thisishowwechurch



Worship Order!

- ❑ *Discern* : What is the DNA of my church?
- ❑ *Discover* : sources for themes (current issues, survey responses, liturgical calendar, etc.)
- ❑ *Determine* : a course of themes for the year
- ❑ *Decide* : what songs and prayers explore/support this theme?

When Can I Do This?

- ❑ Time between services in the sanctuary/worship space.
- ❑ During Sunday School once a month (children explore the theme and scripture the other four weeks).
- ❑ During Children's Church: follow a "real" worship order with procession, call to worship, affirmations of faith, passing of the peace, interactive songs, interactive scripture, offertory, communion, etc. (Pssst: Communion can be goldfish and juice!)
- ❑ Additional worship time during week: Sunday evening, Wednesday evening.

Some tips!



- ❑ Be consistent! Build trust and routine.
- ❑ Get your team together: worship leaders, lay leaders, children's council.
- ❑ Pick your brand- name, hashtags, logo, catchphrase, and mission. "Build up and brag" on social media.
- ❑ Call it what it IS: family worship!
- ❑ Survey. Monitor. Adjust.

An Echo Prayer

We are not the future of the church.

We are the NOW of the church.

We are children of God.

And we can lead the way right NOW.