

Welcome to our Nursery!

Welcome to Nashville United Methodist Church! It is the goal of NUMC to provide a safe, comfortable and nurturing environment for your child. We want you to feel secure about your child's wellbeing while you attend services and activities at NUMC. **Whether a long-time member or first-time guest, please take the time to read the following guidelines.** This should answer most of your questions and introduce you to the policies in place to safeguard all children in our care. Your understanding and cooperation are deeply appreciated.

Nursery Team

The goal of the NUMC Nursery is to offer quality care for your child while you attend church functions. Each Nursery Staff member maintains current CPR and First Aid training. Our nursery team typically consists of one adult and one youth Nursery Staff, and one adult volunteer. All Nursery Staff are trained to be familiar with the nursery facilities, childcare policies, and child safety. They also strive to make your child's earliest church encounters loving and nurturing experiences. All staff and volunteers maintain Safe-Sanctuaries training.

Infant and Toddler Nurseries

Infant nursery is available for newborns to infants up to 24-months-old during our Sunday morning services. Some Sundays and during weekly Bible Studies or church events, the infants may be combined into the Toddler Nursery depending on the number of children present.

Toddler nursery (C102) is for ages two years to Pre-K (3s and 4s). The toys and activities in this room are tailored for children this age, and there is also an adjoining bathroom to accommodate children who are potty training. Please let the staff know if your child is potty training and how often he/she needs to be taken to the restroom.

Older Pre-K children are encouraged to stay with their parents for the beginning of worship until the Children's Moment, at/after which they are invited to participate in Children's Church.

Sunday School is also available for ages three and older during the Sunday School hour. If requested, we will take your 3- or 4-year-old from the nursery to Sunday School at the conclusion of the 8:30am service. You will sign them out at the conclusion of Sunday School.

Nursery/Childcare Availability

The nurseries are available for ages birth through preschool for all worship services and during the Sunday School hour. We begin accepting children 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of an event. When there are additional gatherings or church functions, the nursery is available on an as-needed basis. If you are unsure whether nursery (infant-preschool) or childcare (elementary age and below) will be provided at a function, please call the church office or contact Jennifer Bunn, Nursery Coordinator, to inquire about or request childcare.

Check-In/Out Procedures

There is a child sign-in sheet at the front door of each nursery. Please make sure you fill this out each time you drop off your child and include any special instructions for the staff. Also, take a pager with you or leave your phone number in the event we need to reach you, and be sure to sign out when you pick up your child. We also ask that you fill out a registration form (even if you are a visitor) and keep it updated as needed.

Entering/Exiting During the Service

It is common for infants and toddlers to experience separation anxiety. Normally a child will calm down in just a few minutes after drop-off. If your child continues to be upset for 15 minutes (or less by your request) with no sign being comforted, we will page/text you. Feel free to peek in on your child during the service using the nursery windows. (However, we ask that you try not to be noticed by the children, as it may cause them to become upset when you don't come in to play (or pick them up!). Because some of our children get upset each time the doors open, unless you are staff, an on-duty volunteer, or are dropping off/picking up a child, we request you refrain from entering. (But please know, if you are a new parent and/or your child is adjusting, you are always welcome to stay!) Note that our doors are locked from outside entry for safety/security reasons during the service. Please see a nursery attendant to enter. Children are released only to their parents (or guardians) unless the parents inform the nursery staff otherwise.

Child Illness

For the health and safety of all children and nursery staff (and the peace of mind of our nursery parents), children who have had the following symptoms within the last 24 hours will not be admitted to the nursery. If your child has experienced any of the following within a 24-hour window, we lovingly ask that you keep your child at home.

- ❖ Fever, Diarrhea, Vomiting
- ❖ Runny nose with green or yellow mucus/discharge
- ❖ Communicable eye infections, conjunctivitis (pink-eye)
- ❖ Contagious skin rash, Impetigo, or other similar infections
- ❖ Cough, croup (except in the case of allergy)
- ❖ Fingernails: To avoid accidental scratching, keep your child's nails short and free of debris

*Both nurseries are cleaned/sanitized after each use to help reduce the spread of germs/illness.

Feeding / Food Allergy Policies

Food allergies are important to us. If your child has an allergy, note this on the sign in sheet weekly and remind a nursery staff member upon check-in so that all attendants will be aware. The staff keeps on hand simple snacks such as butter cookies, vanilla wafers, goldfish, and teddy grahams for the children in the toddler nursery. Feel free to request to check the labels to make sure the current snack is okay for your child. We do maintain a nut-free nursery and we ask that parents do not bring any outside snacks for this reason. Note: We do not offer snack in the infant nursery. We will only feed your child what is included in their bag as requested.

"Essentials" Bags

Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers who are not fully potty-trained should have an "essentials bag" (diaper bag, backpack) that is clearly labeled with child's name. Nametags are provided by the church after completing the nursery registration form. If you have any special items that your child needs, such as a "lovey" or clip-on pacifier, please let us know. Bags should contain diapers/Pull-Ups, a clearly labeled bottle/sippy cup, snack (infant), and change of clothes.

Comments, Questions and Concerns

Please feel free to contact us anytime regarding the Nashville United Methodist Church Nursery. Contact Information: Jennifer Bunn, Nursery Coordinator (jennifer@nashvilleumc.net)