



FAMILY MINISTRIES



West Side Presbyterian Church
Varian Fry Way
6 South Monroe Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-652-1966

FAMILY MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The Family Ministries Committee has several responsibilities:

- To minister to and to be the advocates for children from birth to kindergarten age, as well as to their parents. Beginning with a visit by West Side's Associate Pastor for Family Ministries with a cradle cross for the newborn's crib, this Committee is active in developing fun and educational programs for young children. Activities during the year include the Pumpkin Party, Christmas Craft Time, Maundy Thursday Family Dinner, Easter Egg Hunt.
- To arrange child care for church functions including weekday and evening meetings and during Sunday worship, and to ensure that the rooms used by these children are adequately equipped and safe.
- To oversee the operation of the Church School on Sunday mornings. This ministry includes recruitment of teachers for both Church School hours, selection of curriculum, ordering classroom supplies and maintaining attendance records.
- To coordinate special mission programs such as the Thanksgiving Basket collection and the Wish-Tree during the Advent season.





FAMILY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reformation Brunch

Sunday, October 30,
after Worship

On Reformation Sunday, West Side families are invited to the Dining Room for a light lunch and fun designing and carving a pumpkin...and to learn about the Christian origins of Halloween.

Cost: \$10 per family

Advent Brunch

Sunday,
December 18,
after worship



Join us after our Advent Family Sunday Worship for an educational, fun and edible "Bringing in Christmas" brunch and craft time. This 'extended' coffee hour time in the dining room will be a wonderful way for the whole church family to celebrate the "gift that came down at Christmas!"

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 1,
after worship



Another Family Fun Event after our Palm Sunday Worship. Bring your own basket for an Easter Egg Hunt. Learn all about the Symbols of Life and New Birth...Alleluia Christ is Risen, indeed!

Maundy Thursday Family Dinner (Agape Feast)

Thursday, April 20,
6:00 p.m.
Dining Room

For all, but especially appropriate for children. Join us for a pre-communion experience. This is a time of sharing during this special season. Light supper will be provided.

ADULT NIGHT OUT

One Saturday evening each month time is set aside for adults to relax and enjoy the company of friends. Most Adult Night Out evenings are held in conjunction with The Saturday 5:55 service, but not always—be sure to check the Sunday newsletter. If you wish to be on the EVITE list for these events, please email Carol@westside.org

CHILD CARE

Childcare for pre-school children is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each Sunday morning. The “Crib ‘N Crawler” room is on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Childcare is provided free for most church events, including Sunday and all daytime classes and events.

An item on the calendar marked with a single asterisk indicates free child care is provided.

IMPORTANT SUNDAYS

BAPTISM	COMMUNION	FAMILY SUNDAY WORSHIP	OTHER SPECIAL SUNDAYS
September 18	September 4	<i>(No Church School)</i>	
October 16	October 2		September 18 (Homecoming)
November 20	November 6	October 30 (Reformation)	December 11 (Advent Service of Lessons & Carols)
December 18	December 4	November 20	March 4 (FOCUS Sunday)
January 8	January 1	December 18	May 20 (Confirmation)
February 19	February 5	February 5	June 10 (Senior Sunday)
March 18	March 4	March 4	
April 15	April 1	April 1 (Palm Sunday)	
May 20	May 6	May 13 (Choir Recognition)	
June 17	June 3		
July 15	July 1		
August 19	August 5		

There are a lot of other things happening during the year, so remember to check the Sunday morning Newsletter as well as www.westside.org for more information.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Cradle Cross Program



Each newborn child of the congregation is visited by the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries, who will bring the child and family a packet of materials including an oak cradle cross, baby calendar, booklet on Communion and Baptism, and information about West Side's programs. Celebrating the birth of our children is a joyous occasion for all of us.

Second Grade Bibles



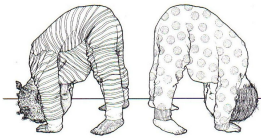
On September 25, we will present personal copies of the Bible to our 2nd Grade children as they begin what we hope will be a lifetime of study. If your child comes to our church after this annual event, please contact the church office for a Bible.

Mission & Stewardship



Our mission projects will include our Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas Wish List, One Great Hour of Sharing, and other programs appropriate for children. Our Stewardship teaches the children the importance of giving with their weekly offering.

Mom's Morning Out



Every Monday and Tuesday that the Nursery School is in session, childcare is available, by registration, in the Nursery. The children are cared for in the Nursery for a minimal charge; Mom (or Dad, or Grandma) gets some time off to get other things done. Call Katie Brusselbach at 201-962-2007 to register. SPACE IS LIMITED.

Children's Choirs



There is a choir for nearly every age at West Side.

See *Music at West Side* to learn more!

West Side Nursery School



In the years since it started in 1960, West Side Nursery School has expanded from three teachers to a staff of seventeen under the leadership of Director Gayle Sussman. There is an Advisory Board of church members and members of the Nursery School community.

In the fall, the Nursery School sponsors a book fair as a fund raiser. In December, the children perform in a Christmas concert. In the spring there is a concert for little children held in the Dining Room. Nursery School events are open to all the members of West Side.