

GOD'S CHILDREN SING

2017-2018

College Church Music and Movement Program for PreKs & Kindergartners

What: **God's Children Sing (GCS)** is an exciting, hands-on music education/worship experience for children who are **four, five, or six years old** and whose parents are members or regular attenders of College Church. The music ministry at College Church offers a ***Musikgarten*** early childhood music and movement curriculum, also called **GCS**, with a wide variety of lively and age-appropriate musical activities, based on weekly Bible stories and Scripture verses, that include singing, moving to music, playing musical instruments, playing singing games and dramatizing musical stories.

Purpose: to teach young children to explore various ways to learn about God and worship him using not only their singing voices, but also their natural ability to keep a steady beat; sing and play tonal and rhythm patterns; listen to sounds and music in their world; listen and respond to God's Word being read; listen and respond to the retelling, in words and music, of stories about God and Jesus Christ; act out the stories and music that they hear; move to the music they hear (using props like hoops, scarves, parachutes) in ways which express their understanding of God's Word, their emotions, their love for God, and their praise to God; play musical instruments (hand drums, jingle bells, rhythm sticks, shakers, sand blocks, gathering drums, resonator bars, tone bells, and xylophones) to worship and praise God; express joy over God's creation and his plan for creation through singing, playing instruments, and playing singing games; and, finally, to express themselves musically to God in prayer. In short, the purpose of GCS is to teach young children to worship and enjoy God, especially musically, with all their being.

What GCS is not: Since GCS is not a choir program, the children will not be performing in concerts or during worship services.

Who: To be eligible for the Kindergarten program (New Testament curriculum), a child must be **currently registered for or attending Kindergarten (born on or before 8/31/12)**. To be eligible for the preK program (Old Testament curriculum), a child must be **currently registered for or attending the preK Bible School class (born on or between 9/1/12 and 8/31/13** with no future intention of holding the child back from Kindergarten). Due to space and enrollment considerations, **preK children will be allowed to participate in the preK program for one year only!** If a child participates in the preK program as a four-year old and is then held back from Kindergarten the following year, the child will not be allowed to participate again as a preK five-year old unless there is an opening in a class at the end of the registration period. Priority will be given to preK who have not yet had an opportunity to enroll in the class. *Children must be out of pull-ups and able to go to the bathroom independently.*

Program Director: Karen Kuite (630-462-1235) for questions regarding the program

Program Coordinator: Claudia Gerwin (630-668-0878, ext. 363) for registration questions

Teachers/Staff: Marilyn Cepuran, Ann Garcia, Christine Guthrie, Sarah Herr, Karen Kuite and Marcelyn Peterson. These teachers are either music educators or have had a significant formal music education background, and they are excited about the commitment they have made before God to ministry with young children.

Family Commitment: Due to the nature of the program and in fairness to those families on the waiting list, **regular attendance by each child is requested. Parents will be assigned to spend at least one class period per semester participating with their child in the class**, as it is important that parents not only understand what GCS is all about, but also form a partnership with us in supporting the program

using the family materials at home and attending the program regularly on Sunday evenings. **Parents will also be responsible for bringing a snack to be shared with the class at the end of the evening(s) in which they visit the class.** Each child absolutely loves it when Mom or Dad (one parent per class) is the special guest for the evening and that child gets to be the special helper, collecting and passing out instruments, getting out the Bible, and passing out his/her snack. Regular attendance enables every child to have these experiences with mom or dad on the assigned snack day! ***Snacks may not contain nuts or nut products per College Church policy.***

Parent On-Site Commitment on Sunday evenings: *Parents of PreK children must remain on site at College Church facilities* throughout the duration of the PreK GCS class on Sunday evenings, per Children's Ministry policy for preschool children. ***Parent of Kindergartners with life-threatening allergies must also remain on site*** in case of an emergency.

Starting Date: Sunday evening, September 10, 2017

Program Length: Semester I: **September 10 - November 12, 2017**
Semester II: **January 14 - April 29, 2018**

Program Content: Pre-Kindergarten Program: Friends in God's World (Old Testament)
Kindergarten Program: Friends of Jesus (New Testament)

Time: *On Sunday evenings, the program begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.* Please make sure the children **use the bathroom before class** and **arrive a few minutes early**, so they don't miss the opening story time. The music/worship curriculum will be **one hour in length** and beyond that will be supplemented with snacks, connecting stories, and singing games as the service length requires. ***Children should not be picked up earlier than 7:15 p.m.*** (or later if the evening service runs longer than usual) by a parent or another designated person. If children are picked up earlier than 7:15 p.m., they are sad to miss hearing the picture book stories and eating the evening snack.

Place: Students will be assigned to music teachers and classrooms at the beginning of September, and parents will be notified of the assignments before classes begin in September. Classrooms currently used for the program include rooms **001 (Kindergarten Room), 011, 012, 001, and 201.**

Program Fees: *An annual program fee of \$30 per child is required. Musikgarten family materials will be ordered at the beginning of the year,* (once per family at the PreK level and once per family at the Kindergarten level) for families to keep and use at home to support the music that is presented in class throughout the year. **The materials provided include a CD of the music that is taught in class, a parent book, picture cards, and a cloth packet for storing the materials.** *Family materials for home use are required by our license agreement with Musikgarten.* There is no program fee for missionary families on home assignment (contact Karen Kuite).

Class Size: Classes are small at 10 children per class with 3 classes at each grade level. Once our limits of **30 children at the PreK level and 30 children at the Kindergarten level** are reached through online registration, registration will be closed. In that event, please email [Karen Kuite](#) to put your child on a waiting list to be considered for fall placement.

Online Registration: Online registration is required as well as payment of the annual program fee at the time of registration. Space is limited; therefore, registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Provision is made for on-line credit card payment at the time of registration. Parents are strongly encouraged to **register by June 30.** *After June 30, email [Karen Kuite](#) to put your child on a waiting list.*

Online Registration Site: From the website, click on children then music.