

Parent Packet 2023-2024

The Mission:

Kids ministry at Redemption Parker exists to **partner with parents to make disciples of their children for the glory of God and the joy of all people**. We firmly believe that Scripture is clear in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 that the chief responsibility and joy of parents is to raise up their children in a home that loves the Lord with all their heart, soul, and might. Kids ministry at RP exists to partner with parents to help them accomplish this great task in several ways.

1. We provide safe spaces for children to learn and grow apart from their parents.
2. We partner to teach the words of God diligently to children and gently prepare them to enter the long-standing liturgies of the church.
3. We seek to equip parents to talk about the words of God with their children throughout the week.

Who We Are:

The volunteers of Redemption Parker Kids Ministry are what we call Strategic Servants. They have the special privilege of partnering with the parents of Redemption Parker to lay a firm foundation of Truth in the lives of the children that we serve. We provide an environment that is safe, happy, and nurturing, while presenting children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Leadership Team:

Name	Email Address	Role
Kenna Nuu	kenna@redemptionparker.org	Kids Ministry Director
Christina Caldwell	christina@redemptionparker.org	Kids Ministry Coordinator

Kenna's Story:

I was 7 years-old the first time I begged my mom to let me serve with her in the church nursery. Even as a child myself, I loved little children. As I have grown older, I have come to understand why. The littlest image-bearers in our midst are very beloved to their Creator as well. "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). What a joy and privilege to partner with parents to serve these "little children" at Redemption Parker! By God's beautiful design, He has authored my story to be filled with opportunities to teach and serve children. Prior to having children myself, I worked as a special education teacher. My husband, Ryan, and I now have 3 children of our own, and God continues to teach me much about His character through the simplicity, humility, and faith of children. I am beginning the homeschool journey and have been graciously mentored in the philosophy of Charlotte Mason. In her words, I hope to use my role to "present the idea of God" and "implant a love of the word of God" in the souls of these children, in order that "God might

become their exceeding joy!” Outside of caring for our family and teaching our children, I enjoy reading, having deep conversations with friends, delighting in God’s creation, hiking/biking/running, learning new skills, and adventuring with my family.

Christina’s Story:

I grew up in a small town in beautiful Northern New Mexico. I received a double master’s degree in Social Work and Public Health and worked as a hospice social worker before having my children. God slowly worked in my heart through my twin sister who diligently prayed for my soul and sent me Bibles, encouraging me to pursue a life in Christ. At her encouragement, I attended a bible believing church that quickly became like family to me. I surrendered my life to Christ and was baptized at 27 years old. I’ll never forget that feeling of rising up out of the water, a new creation, holy and beloved. My days of searching for a “home” were over. I met Jesus and settled right in. Because of my redemption story, I fully believe that church should feel like family and God should feel like home. I believe that God calls us to a life of discipleship and in my current season, he’s given me children – my own and the children in the church. I am so thankful to God for sovereignly bringing our family to Redemption Parker and for the gift of walking alongside the children and their families as we faithfully disciple them to know the joy and fullness of trusting and loving Jesus. My husband, Josh, is a former missionary and currently works as a nurse at the VA hospital. Together we have two kids and we’re involved in the Safe Families ministry. My favorite things are being outdoors with my friends and family, warm drinks, good books, and all things cozy.

Who We Serve:

1st and 2nd Services:

- **Classrooms 1 & 2:** *Babies: Children 6 weeks to 17 mos, **and** Younger Toddler: 18 mos to 2 years*
 - *Meets in the PACE Center Lounge*
- **Classroom 3:** Older Toddler: Children 3 to 4 years old
 - Meets in PACE Center Creative Studio West
- **Classroom 4:** Children 5 years to 1st Grade
 - Meets in PACE Center Creative Studio East
- **Classroom 5:** Children 2nd through 5th Grade
 - Meets in PACE Discovery Lab East

Special Needs:

We recognize that all people are created in the image of God. Though some children have special needs, all are image bearers first and foremost. Children with special needs are welcomed and included in all of our classrooms. We realize that some children with special needs may be exceptions to our typical age and grade-based classrooms. Please contact Kenna Nu at kenna@redemptionparker.org to discuss how we can best meet your child’s needs.

All of our Kids Ministry Strategic Servants have also been extensively trained on how to best serve kids who come from backgrounds with trauma through Project 127. If you would like to learn more about what this training entails, please contact Kenna at kenna@redemptionparker.org.

Safety:

The safety of the children at Redemption Parker is our utmost priority. These steps are taken to ensure safety:

- We promise that every adult volunteer at Redemption Parker has been background checked within the past 5 years.
- We service each room with two background checked volunteers for added accountability.
- Classroom volunteers maintain an automated class roster on the classroom iPads based on who has checked in to their classroom. In case of an emergency, these rosters will aid us in accounting for all children.
- Volunteers “check out” the child to their caregiver on our digital classroom roster upon pick-up.
- In case of fire, meet your children on the east side of the parking lot by the church storage trailer. A wagon is provided to transport non-walkers.
- We ask that **NO PICTURES or VIDEOS** are taken of kids, unless permission has been given.

Health and Wellness:

To maintain the health and wellness of all of our children, families, and volunteers we kindly ask that you not bring sick children to Redemption Parker Kids Ministry. The following are guidelines for when children should be kept home.

- Fever—if child registers a temperature higher than normal (98.6-99.4 being normal range).
- Vomiting or Diarrhea—child must be symptom free for 24-48 hours.
- Respiratory Illness—significant symptoms of respiratory illness such as thick, colored mucus from eyes or nose, serious or persistent cough, runny or crusty eyes, significantly sore throat, or flu-like symptoms.
- Rash—any undiagnosed or contagious skin rash.
- Head Lice—may return when hair is nit free. PLEASE NOTIFY US if your child has head lice.
- Pink Eye—eyes are clear or child has been on prescription medication for at least 24 hours.
- Infection requiring doctor’s prescription—child should be on antibiotics for at least 24 hours prior to Redemption Parker. (We ask at least 36 hours for Strep Throat.)
- Any time a child's behavior indicates that he/she is not feeling well enough to attend.

Programming:

General Information:

- Please drop off your child before the service starts. Classrooms open 10 minutes before the service.
- Parent Paging System: Our “check-in” software requires a parent or guardian phone number. If a parent is needed, the volunteer will send an automatic text to the phone number associated with the child on file through our paging system. Please make sure the phone number is correct and your cell phone is on vibrate and visible to you during the service.

- Please label all of your child's belongings so that nothing gets lost. All lost items will be turned into the PACE Center Lost and Found.
- Redemption Parker volunteers do not change diapers or potty train children. We are able to take one potty trained child to the bathroom at a time and will wait outside the door while the child is utilizing the facility. If a diaper or potty training need arises, the volunteer will text the corresponding phone number gathered at check-in. Please report promptly back to your child's classroom.
- Please wait at the door of the classrooms upon pick-up.
- Please pick up your children immediately following communion and bring them back to the main room with you for the final worship song and benediction.

Curriculum:

Our Kids Ministry program utilizes [A Sure Foundation](#) curriculum, published by [Truth78](#). This curriculum believes (as do we) that the best foundation for our littlest image bearers is the sure foundation of Jesus Christ. Everything else will crumble. Therefore, in our kids ministry, we seek to provide a godly atmosphere that spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus. We view our **Babies (0-17 mos classroom)** as the very beginning stages of leading a child to Jesus, and we seek to accomplish this through prayer. We aim to create an environment centered on praying for and blessing each child entrusted to us for the service hour.

When your child moves up to our **Younger Toddler (18 mos-2 years old classroom)**, we aim to continue creating an environment centered on prayer and blessing, but we also add scripture memory, a Bible story, and worship songs. Our goal is to present great truths about God in very simple words through the telling of key Bible stories that we repeat over and over.

When your child moves up to our **Older Toddler (3-4 year old classroom)**, we continue teaching Bible stories, learning worship songs, and learning scripture memory verses but at a more advanced and age appropriate level.

When your child moves up to our **5 year old to 1st Grade classroom**, we continue utilizing a curriculum published by [Truth78](#). We add a time to teach children [catechism](#), to learn to pray, scripture memory, a Bible story, and worship songs (introduce hymns).

For our **2nd to 5th Grade classroom**, we have created our own curriculum with the goal in mind of gently preparing children to participate in the liturgies of the church. We sing a hymn together, work through [catechism](#), we recite beautiful and useful things (like the Books of the Bible and the Apostle's Creed), we teach a Bible lesson which is made up of reading, narrating, and discussing a passage from Scripture, we introduce and pray for an unreached people group, and finally we memorize Scripture.

To fulfill our commitment found in our mission statement of seeking to equip parents to talk about the words of God with their children throughout the week, we send out *monthly emails* to parents in our classrooms with information about what your child heard during their time with us and ideas for following up with them in your own discipling efforts at home.

Child Baptism:

We treat the baptism of children with special care. We want to walk through this exciting process with you and your children. If your child expresses interest in baptism, please schedule a time to talk with an elder:

- Mark Oshman at mark@redemptionparker.org
- Rick Eisenberg at rick@redemptionparker.org
- Brad Dugas at brad@redemptionparker.org

Tween or Teen Who Has Aged Out of Kids Ministry:

Volunteer to serve in Redemption Parker's Kids Ministry

It is the vision of the church to see 6th graders integrated into the full life of the church through weekly Sunday worship attendance, serving on a team, and joining the Youth Ministry.

We invite youth who are in 6th grade and up to serve alongside two adult volunteers in Redemption Parker Kids Ministry. Please contact Kenna Nuu (kenna@redemptionparker.org) for more information to volunteer.

Join us in Redemption Parker's Youth Ministry

The student ministry at Redemption Parker is a community specifically designed for middle-school and high-school students.

For more information, contact Stewart Emahiser at stew@redemptionparker.org