

*Welcome to the
Home Moravian Church
Nursery
Infant-Toddler Ministry*

Welcome

We welcome your child to the Home Moravian Church. We want you to feel comfortable bringing your child to church each Sunday as you worship—whether you keep your child with you in the service or make use of the children’s nursery. We realize it is difficult with a newborn to predict when and how regularly you will be able to attend church. Our goal is to make your worship experience a positive one, when you are able to attend.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come unto me.” One of the best things you can do for your child is to establish for yourself a habit of regular worship, Christian education and service. When asked what one piece of child-rearing advice he would give, a minister once answered, “Have your children at the church every time the door opens.” You need all the help you can get in raising your children, and the church can supply that help.

We are happy that you and your child are here!

Hints for a Happy Nursery Experience

- A nursery is available beginning at 9:30 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. It also is available for those adults attending Sunday School (11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon) until 12:15 p.m. An usher can direct you to the Nursery.
- Bring any comfort items your child may need.
- At the Nursery, please fill out the information page for feedings, allergies, etc.
- Always sign in your child and make sure the Child Care worker knows which diaper bag goes with your baby. A nursery representative is available to help you through this process.
- Make sure that all items belonging to your child are **labeled with his/her name**, including bottles, wipes, pacifiers, diaper bag, etc.
- Fill out a sticker nametag for your child and place it on his/her back.
- Take a pager or leave a number at which you may be texted.
- Children are provided a light gluten-free, lactose-free snack.
- Your baby may cry when you leave, but he/she often will stop soon. You may leave arrangements with the Child Care workers if desired (example: "Please text me if she still is crying in 10 minutes."). Try to avoid having your child see you until you are ready to pick him/her up.
- Know that the children listen to the service while they are in the nursery. The radio may not be on when you drop off your child, as WSJS broadcasts the service but provides regular programming until 10:00 a.m. Young children absorb all of their environment, and Home Moravian is happy to have young children exposed to the hymns, scriptures, and songs of worship. Bible story time also is a part of the hour.
- **Ratio:** It is difficult to predict how many children will be in the nursery each Sunday, but we have at least two Child Care workers and one volunteer in the Nursery.

What if I want to nurse my child?

If you wish, a private space for nursing is provided. Please speak with the nursery representative.

Who Are These Nursery Providers Caring for My Child?

- **The Child Care Supervisor** is an employee of the church who oversees the church nursery.
- **The Child Care Assistant** also is an employee of the church who works with the nursery children.
- **Church Volunteers:** Volunteers are assigned on a rotational basis to help in the nursery.
- **The Director of Christian Education**, Margaret Norris, is an employee of the church who oversees the successful running of the nursery. Margaret can be contacted through the church office (336-722-6171) or by email at mnorris@homemoravian.org.

Transitioning out of the Nursery

It's recommended that children transition out of the nursery gradually before their fourth birthday, starting in the Sanctuary with their parents and experiencing a few minutes of the service before being taken to the Nursery. As they are ready, they are welcome to stay in the service. A worship bag for children is available from an usher or from the hat stand in the west vestibule (near the outside, brick ramp). At the pre-sermon hymn, families who wish may have their children aged four and up to be led by volunteers to the Godly Play space. There, they will experience a Bible story in the Montessori tradition. At the end of the church service and of Godly Play, children may be picked up from RB-227 or, after Sunday School, from the second floor of the Christian Education Building (a floor above the nursery). Ushers always are available to guide you to your child/ren.

What is "Safe Sanctuary"?

Home Moravian is a *Safe Sanctuary* church and has adopted its *Safe Sanctuary* policy to ensure the emotional, spiritual, and physical safety of its children and youth. The staff has been trained in its policies. Additionally, all paid personnel have gone through background checks. A copy of the Safe Sanctuary policy is available upon request.

Infant Baptism in the Moravian Church

The Moravian Church practices baptism of infants through adults. If you have questions about baptism, a Home Church minister will be happy to talk with you (336-722-6171 or home1771@homemoravian.org).

For more information on Moravians and baptism, please visit the following site: <http://www.moravian.org/faith-a-congregations/the-sacrament-of-baptism/>

Ideas for Home

You are your child's primary influence in his/her faith development. Here are a few ideas to help you along the way:

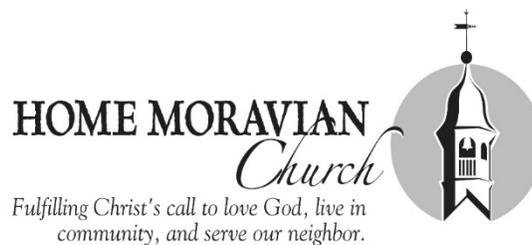
- Pray for your child every day of his/her life.
- Be regular in church and Sunday School attendance.
- Provide your child with religious music. There are instrumental cds or downloads of hymns that are appropriate for infants and Sunday School songs for toddlers.
- Read Bible stories to your child and provide him/her with toys with Bible themes.
- Establish a discipline of praying together at meal times and bed times.
- Establish for yourself a discipline of Bible reading and let your child see you.
- Emphasize the religious meanings of holidays, particularly Christmas and Easter.
- Take your child with you when you "love your neighbor". Any acts of kindness or charity may be done in the presence of your child.

When will I have the opportunity to serve as a parent volunteer?

You may want to consider serving in the Nursery, teaching or shepherding in the elementary Sunday School program or nursery/preschool program, serving in the mid-week *Moravian Minis* children's program, or assisting with children's choirs. Please contact the Director of Christian Education to learn more about these programs: home1771@homemoravian.org, 336-722-6171.

Salem Montessori Preschool

Salem Montessori School is a non-profit Christian preschool and kindergarten that is housed in Home Moravian Church. It offers children ages 18 months to 6 years a warm, inviting Montessori environment. The admission process starts with a parent information meeting held at the school. More information may be found at www.salem-montessori.org.



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