

Children & Communion
Avondale Presbyterian Church
April 2024

Avondale Presbyterian Church believes children are an important part of our worshipping community. We promise to nurture, educate, prepare and love our children from the minute they are born and support them through out their lives.

We are delighted to inform you of recent updates to Avondale’s procedures around serving communion to children during Sunday school. Avondale takes an active role in educating our children and helping to prepare them for communion.

When is Your Child Ready?

The Lord’s Supper not only nourishes, it also teaches, and we learn about communion by participating in it. Even young children can learn that the Lord’s Supper is a special meal to be received with respect. We will do our best in helping your children know of God’s never ending love and presence in their lives.

What You and Your Children Should Know About Communion at Avondale

Avondale serves communion on the first Sunday of each month during Worship service. We believe this is not a Presbyterian table but rather a table for everyone. All are welcome to our table and invited to break bread and drink of the covenant together. We follow the PC (USA) Book of Order, which says, “All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.”

Avondale currently offers two Sunday School classes for young children. Pre-K (4’s and 5’s) and elementary (K-5). A nursery for infants through 3 years of age is available every Sunday during worship. All children are welcomed and encouraged to attend worship. Following the children’s moment, they are invited to attend their Sunday school class. We want to inform you that beginning the first Sunday of April, we will begin offering communion during Sunday school to the elementary class that will also include education around the sacrament of communion.

When and how will communion be served in the classroom from Elders?

Infant Class: infant – 3’s Teachers will be served communion by Elders in the classroom. Children will NOT be served.

Pre-K: 4’s and 5’s Beginning in April, children will start learning and talking about the rituals around communion as they observe their teacher’s receiving communion from Elders every first

Sunday of the month. Students will NOT be served at this time. Parents are always welcome to keep their children in Worship on Communion Sunday to receive the elements together.

K – 5th Grade Class Beginning in April and continuing monthly, teachers will incorporate lesson plans around communion. Upon entering the classroom, Elders will extend the invitation to the table and help create a reverent and respectful setting for communion. Teachers will be served communion in the classroom and students will be offered communion as well.

How Parents Can Help prepare their children to receive the Lord's Supper

Parents are encouraged to communicate with their children and be active partners in the education around communion. Below is a list of suggestions on ways to spend time sharing your experiences and helping them further understand the meaning.

1. Describe to your child the stories from the Bible regarding the Lord's Supper.
2. Talk to your children about how we celebrate through meals and sharing food with each other.
3. On Communion Sunday, ask them what they learned from class and how they viewed communion.
4. Talk to your children about communion at mealtime and why eating together is an important time showing we belong to each other.

We hope this letter has helped you understand the importance of teaching and preparing our children for communion. It has been developed by members of the Christian Nurture and Worship Committee, our Pastor and approved by the Session.

Please let us know if you have any questions or thoughts.

Committee on Communion and Children Lynn Wilkerson, Zach Chambers, Julie Caldwell, Jim Ewing and Christie Flowers