

Children and Family Ministries

Grace Porter, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Jennifer Naslund and Erin Heilman, Children and Family Ministry Team

“God has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

As we are in the 2nd year of a pandemic, with no understanding of where we are headed, this verse reminds me that, really, no one has any idea, except for God. And that, in time, God will reveal the beauty in everything, even though it’s incredibly hard to see now! I came into the year of 2021 excited to graduate college and find a job where God was calling me, but with really no idea about the future. Little did I know that that call wouldn’t be taking me far! By the time the summer rolled around, I was ready to hop fully into children and family ministry here at Immanuel, starting with our Vacation Bible School party on a hot, Thursday evening this summer!

Although VBS was virtual again this year, many of us came together to sing, dance, and pray outside in the Immanuel back yard to celebrate the end of a fun week. We were able to adapt from the first virtual VBS and have another successful year of keeping families safe while providing summer programming at home! Our outdoor worships were also a hit this summer; families enjoyed worshipping together in new, safe ways, and kids loved the chalk, bubbles, and playground to wiggle while they worshipped.

As the fall neared, we prepared for Sunday morning programming back in person, while still offering online options. Many people were excited to come back to Sunday School- we have had solid groups of young people attending on Sunday mornings, from 3-years-old to 6th grade! We have added music back into Sunday morning programming, and the young people have had a chance to sing in worship, which the congregation has enjoyed.

We also have families continuing to worship from home, and we will into this year. As Anyday Sunday School families were looking for a refresh, I started filming the lesson, virtual VBS style. God Squad had the option to meet online on Wednesdays, and as the students got vaccinated, we are transitioning to fully in person on Sunday mornings! I am excited to continue offering both online and in-person options for families as we continue to navigate this year.

With the knowledge of the years behind us, the strength from God to find beauty in everything, and the human resolve to just keep moving, I am excited and prepared to see what the new year brings!