

## Children's Ministry Annual Report - January 2025

In 2024 the children's class completed their study of some key tenets of Progressive Christianity including a basic unit on world religions before moving on to learning about some of the major figures in the Hebrew scriptures. During Lent the children collected more than 20 grocery bags worth of food and needed toiletry items for children at one of our nearby middle schools. During the summer the children explored the concept of up cycling, gathering donations of used items from the congregation. These were transformed into "new" and usable items and sold at a coffee hour. The profits, \$430.00, were donated to Heifer International to send goats, chicks, bees and seedlings to assist needy families in developing countries.

We now have seven children serving in worship every week as acolytes. We are grateful for our dedicated parents who support this service and participation of the children. All children are invited to participate in the children's handbell program which shares in worship occasionally.

During the summer we held our first interfaith camp in conjunction with Sai Baba and the Portland Muslim Center. More than forty children attended that morning session where they learned stories from other traditions, games and crafts. Frog Camp filled the same afternoons where twenty children explored the joys and science of cooking and served their families a meal at the end of the week.

Other highlights from the year included Welcome Back Sunday in September with a bouncy house, the annual Sweetie Pie Pie Auction, the annual Palm Sunday Processional, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, a family fun afternoon at a local lake, a family processional on World Communion Sunday, a family lunch and Bingo afternoon, the annual Trunk-R-Treat event in October, parents afternoon out during Advent, and the children's annual Christmas Musical with lunch for the congregation.

Audrey Morrow is our Nursery and P/K Coordinator and Jenn Winqvist leads our children's handbell and voice choirs. The remaining church staff supports our children in myriad ways throughout the year. We are especially grateful for the parents and other adult volunteers who assist in our children's ministry program filling it with vitality and joy year after year. Our entire congregation values and supports the spiritual and religious education of all our children and youth making these programs truly an all-church effort. We feel blessed and grateful.

Respectfully,  
Rev. C. Bunny Oliver  
Director, Children's Ministry