



KIDZONE
CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

PARENTS HANDBOOK

HEY THERE!!!

We know being a parent is one of the most challenging jobs on the planet, but it's also the most incredible thing you will ever do.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help in any way we can. We may be a children's ministry, but that doesn't mean kids are the only people we care about. We care about you too!

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your child and serve you at the same time.

Thank you for letting us be another voice in the life of your child. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!





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THE BASICS

OUR STAFF



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Let us know if there's anything you ever need. We're here to help!

KidZone is blessed with SO many volunteers that are not listed,
but are the most valued members of our team!!

Our Big Win

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning in children's ministry. Like, is anything we are teaching sinking in? Are kids growing in their faith? That's why we decided to define the big win for our ministry. We have created Benchmarks and Core Values that will help us with Our Big Win! We win when a kid takes a step toward owning their faith!

Discipleship Benchmarks:

Powerful In Prayer
Responsive in Worship
Baptized by Water & Spirit

Core Values: Our core values are who we are; they are our foundation.

1. JESUS: IS OUR MESSAGE
Methods will come and go, yet our message will remain the same – an Apostolic Message.
2. People: ARE OUR HEART
All People = Our Heart
We unapologetically focus and love those far away from God.
3. GENEROSITY: IS OUR PRIVILEGE
We go first in giving our time, talents, and treasures.
4. EXCELLENCE: IS OUR SPIRIT
If we're gonna do it, it's to the best of our ability, with what we have.
5. SERVANT LEADERSHIP: IS OUR IDENTITY
We believe the greatest leadership is service to others. We, as leaders, are servants first.
6. HONOR: IS OUR CALLING
We choose joyfully to submit to those God has placed over us. We honor and care for those under us.
7. PASSION: IS OUR PURSUIT
Passion for Jesus. Passion for people. Passion for His church.

Staff Values: Our staff values are who we aspire to be. However, we may not always live up to them. They are the attributes we constantly pursue as a staff.

1. JESUS IS OUR WAY

He is our focus and the center of everything we do.

2. MAKE IT BETTER

My role, no matter the job description, is to make the church a better place.

3. WE OWN IT

We are not just church leaders. We are members. We serve fundamental parts of the church wholeheartedly.

4. WORK TOGETHER

Collaboration is valued in all aspects of ministry. God is honored when we are unified by His work.

5. DUPLICATE YOURSELF

If we are not teaching how to do what we do, we are not leading. At First Church, we are creating pathways of growth and purpose for others.



Our Ministry

OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Our children's ministry meets for fun, kid-friendly worship services during the Sunday morning services.

Wednesday at 7:00 PM

On Wednesday, they receive group lessons to develop a love for the Bible in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

OUR ENVIRONMENTS

There are three kinds of environments for kids in our ministry. Each one is designed to strategically invite kids and families on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, our adult volunteers, JESUS, and each one is designed with every kid in mind! The kids who've grown up in church and the first-time visitors!

EVENTS: Throughout the year, we'll host several significant events designed to help kids connect with each other, their families and with our leaders and volunteers.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS: Our weekly programs happen every single week. They are designed to help our kids grow and meet our benchmarks.

SMALL GROUPS: Small groups are an essential part of what we want to do in 2022. They are designed to connect every kid with a consistent, trustworthy adult and community of peers.

THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Your child's safety is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Anyone interested in serving on the Children's Ministry Team must undergo a background check process and be approved by the KidZone Director. Anyone under the age of 18 years old is not required to have a background check on file.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set several guidelines for our children's ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No adults may ever be alone with the kids.
- Adults may never be in a bathroom alone with the kids.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with kids at all times. Volunteers will be trained in how to approach a child appropriately.
- To help keep kids safe and healthy, kids will not be allowed to enter the complex if they have any of the following: fever of 100 degrees or greater (children must be fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours before returning to KidZone/Route 56), vomiting, diarrhea, chills, sore throat, excessive runny nose, bad cough, rash, pink eye, or lice.

WE HAVE STRICT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF POLICIES

Kids are to remain under the care and supervision of their parents until they are checked into our complex. We require all 6th grade and under to be checked in by a parent or guardian.

We encourage parents to make drop-offs quick, even with younger kids who may have a hard time. Separation anxiety is normal and if you want us to contact you after a certain amount of crying, let the leader know.

(Our check-in and check-out policies are located on the next page)

Our check-in and check-out policies are....

- Kids must be checked in for services by a parent or guardian.
- Kids must be checked out of services by a parent or guardian. **Your child will not be released until check-out at the host desk.**
- Children cannot be checked in until the 30-minute mark before service. (9:30 AM on Sunday mornings and 6:30 PM on Wednesday nights)
- A child may NOT be picked up by anyone under 16 years old or not on the authorized list of guardians.
- If your child has a particular need or medical issue, or allergy that we need to know about, let the host team know when you sign your child in. Allergies will be noted on your child's name sticker.

WE TAKE SAFETY SERIOUSLY

Because we take the safety of your kids very seriously, and we screen and background check all the adults working with kids, and we do not allow adults in the children's ministry if they aren't screened. If you want to be in the class with your child, see the Children's Ministry Director

WE CONSIDER ALLERGIES

Due to the risk of allergies, we are a peanut-free facility.

If your child has a medical need or allergy, let the leader and a member of our host know. We cannot administer any medications. When food and drink are used in our children's ministry rooms, an allergy alert sign will be posted.

WE PAGE PARENTS

- If we need to get ahold of you during the service, we will notify you through text, and a security team member will ensure you receive the message.
- We will page parents if children exhibit symptoms of illness, are crying inconsolably for more than 10 minutes, or if a child behaves in violent or extreme behavior.

WE HAVE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Our church has emergency procedures posted in every classroom, and all volunteers are trained for weather emergencies, medical emergencies, evacuations, and predator situations. If an emergency occurs, kids will not be released until the area is cleared; only at that time, the parent or guardian may come to claim the child.

Behavior Plan

It is the heart of our children's ministry to make **every effort possible** to ensure the safety and well-being of every child and volunteer that is in our area.

There can be occasions where children have difficulty adjusting to classroom or children's church environments. We will be proactive in asking that our staff notify the Director of any behavior that is compromising our standards of classroom management.

Our staff will avoid using any words or tones of voice that may frighten a child or may make them feel shameful.

While in our care, we will never send a child to the corner; place them in time-out or physical discipline (spanking or hand popping, etc.).

If a child continually disrupts the classroom or service, the Director will be notified, and they will decide on contacting the parents.

Parents will be contacted **immediately** when the child exhibits the following behaviors:

- Temper tantrums or loud outbursts of crying
- Defiance or repeated refusal to cooperate
- Use of foul language
- Hitting, biting, kicking, or other violent behavior

If the inappropriate behavior choices persist on **two consecutive Sundays**, the parent will be asked to stay with the child for the duration of the service the next time the child attends KidZone. Parents will be asked to provide direction and assistance to the volunteer on showing the child the appropriate behavior expected in KidZone

CONTACT US

Let's stay in touch

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open.....

EMAIL

We will send an email just for parents every month. It's packed with information on our ministry and some excellent parent tips.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We post photos, videos, and updates from our ministry each week. Follow along at

- **Facebook:**
 - PreK – 4th Grade - **KidZone FPC**
 - 5th – 6th Grade – **Route 56 Parents**

REMIND APP

We use Remind messaging app to send out friendly reminders on events or information.

- KidZone text @fpckidzone to 81010
- Route 56 text @route56p to 81010