

Great Beginnings



PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK 2020-21

**First Presbyterian Church
101 South Decatur Street
Strasburg, PA 17579
687-6030
www.straspres.org**

Great Beginnings



**At First Presbyterian Church of
Strasburg**

WELCOME

The Christian Education Committee and the Staff of Great Beginnings Preschool welcome you and your child to our school. We are here to provide an opportunity for your child to develop socially in a Christian atmosphere.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide opportunities for children to develop and grow through the use of creative learning experiences such as group activities, hands-on math, stories, science, music, art, language games, hands-on science, physical education, cooking and dramatic play within a loving Christian environment.

QUESTIONS

We encourage you to contact the Director or the teacher if you have any questions or comments about our program.

In the event of an emergency during preschool hours, please call the church office at 687-6030.



PRESCHOOL STAFF

Lynn Underhill, Administrative Director
A.M. Pre-K Class Teacher
hlunderhill@comcast.net 687-6082

Laurie Fulmer
Two- & Three-Year-Old Class Teacher
lauriebrian@comcast.net 278-8163

Sue Henry
Three-Year-Old Class teacher
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Shalynne Wnuk
P.M. Pre-K Class Teacher
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GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for admission to our preschool, children should be two, three and four years old by September 1. This is based on the cut-off date for enrollment in the Lampeter-Strasburg School District.

Priority will be given to First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg families and present preschool students. These families must apply by January 31. All other applications will be available on a first come, first serve basis beginning February 1.

Children should be potty-trained prior to the start of school. Twos should be working on training.

REGISTRATION

Applications will be available in February. There is a \$45 non-refundable application fee. **Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.** Handbooks and school calendars will be mailed in early August.

TUITION

The tuition rate for the 2020-2021 school year is \$660 for the Pre-K program, \$535 for the three-year-old program and \$310 for the two-year-old program.

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$45.00. If more than one family member is enrolled in the program at the same time, \$50.00 will be deducted off the combined tuition. Parents who are willing to be a regular aide in the classroom are given a tuition reduction of \$300.00 for the year or \$150 for a half year.

Tuition Payment Plans:

1. Semester payments can be made September 1 and February 1.
2. Nine monthly payments can be made **beginning September 1.**

Payments should not be given to your child to take to school or to the teacher in the classroom. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to the church address or place your envelope in the preschool mailbox in the church hallway.

Late Payments: Please make your tuition payments when they are due. **If your payments are more than two months late, your child will not be able to attend our preschool until your account is brought up to date.**



INSURANCE

Great Beginnings at First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg provides coverage for our preschool children on a secondary or excess basis while they are on church property. This insurance coverage extends to field trips.

BULLETIN BOARD AND NEWSLETTER

Important information and notices will be posted on the parent bulletin board outside the preschool classroom. A newsletter will be distributed to keep you posted on upcoming events and your child's activities.

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Because our church cares about the safety of all children who attend our preschool, all parent and family volunteers are required to submit a Child Abuse History Clearance and a PA State Police Report of Criminal History Record and attend a one-hour workshop at the church. We take your child's safety very seriously and hope that you agree that this protective measure is well worth the time and inconvenience it may cause.

Education Wing security doors have been installed and will be locked from 9:15 until 11:30am and 12:45 to 3:00pm.

HEALTH

We recommend that your child have up-to-date immunization records.

If your child is ill with any of the following please DO NOT send him/her to school; fever, diarrhea, vomiting, a contagious disease (chicken pox), or a contagious condition (lice, impetigo, pinkeye, etc.) Please notify us if your child develops any of the childhood diseases such as lice, etc. You will be notified if a contagious disease is present in any of the children at school. You will also be notified if your child becomes ill or has had an accident.

See Preschool Reopening Guidelines



SNACKS

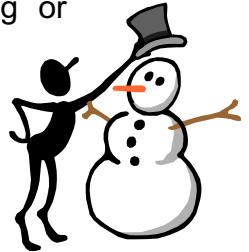
A healthy snack and water will be provided for each child. Birthday treats are welcomed. Please arrange the date with your child's teacher. Food donations cannot be homemade this year but can be store-bought prepacked food snacks.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS



In case of snow or inclement weather, we will follow the Lampeter-Strasburg School District pattern for closing or delaying school. **If the district is delayed for two hours, the morning preschool classes will be closed; the afternoon classes will be open. If L-S is closed then the preschool classes are cancelled. Occasionally the teacher may call you to make up snow days missed.**



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is the responsibility of the parents. Complete enrollment lists will be provided at Open House to help you.

ARRIVAL CHANGES

Pre-K students and Miss Laurie's 3 year-old class will enter at the carport door. Miss Sue's 3 year-old class and the 2 year-old class will enter at the Fellowship hall door. Parents are requested to bring their children to the classroom door. **We also request children not arrive before 8:50am. The afternoon class should not arrive before 12:30pm.**

The church requires that children in the 3 year and Pre-K classes and all adults wear masks while in the building.

DISMISSAL

Children will be dismissed at 11:30 for all morning classes and 3:00 for all afternoon classes. Parents are requested **to pick up their children on time**. If someone other than a parent will be picking up your child, please notify the teacher with a note or call the church at 687-6030. Pre-K students and Miss Laurie's 3 year-old class will be picked up in the carport front hallway. The 2 year-old class and Miss Sue's 3 year-old class will be picked up in Fellowship Hall.



CLOTHING

Please dress your child for safety, comfort and activity. We encourage sneakers and rubber-soled shoes since we are very active and go out to play daily. **Flip flops and open-heel shoes are not acceptable**. Please mark all removable clothing—boots, sweaters, mittens, coats, etc. with your child's initials.

Backpacks are encouraged on a daily basis. During the pandemic nothing from home will be permitted in the classroom.

When weather becomes cool, please teach your child how to put their jacket on. In winter months, **mittens are easier than fingered gloves**.

BIRTHDAYS

Children having a birthday during the school year may bring a special treat to share with the class, if desired. **Please do not bring cakes or cupcakes.** Summer birthdays will be celebrated on prearranged days in the second semester. Birthday treats must be store-bought and prepackaged this year due to Covid-19.



OPEN HOUSE & PARENT CONFERENCES

Before school begins, we will hold small group visitations at the church to offer parents and children a chance to meet the teacher, to become familiar with the classroom and church surroundings. Conferences for the Pre-K will be scheduled during the winter months. Parents of two and three year-olds can request a meeting with the teacher.



PROGRAM GOALS

Create a nurturing environment in the classroom, and provide an atmosphere of emotional security.

Instill values of love, compassion and respect for others.

Provide opportunities for personal accomplishments.



Provide for social enrichment through interaction with other children and adults, field trips, and class visitors.

Develop fine and gross motor skills and coordination.

Introduce basic educational concepts through play, books, music, science, art, field trips and physical education.



Work closely with parents through daily contact, newsletter, emails, scheduled conferences, and encourage family members to participate in special events.

A basic Christian curriculum is partnered along with the academic curriculum in the form of Bible stories, songs, etc. The children visit the pastor regularly. A prayer of thanks will be given at snack time and religious holidays will be observed.

2020-21 School Year Calendar

September	1	First Tuition Payment Due
	-	Open House Teachers will contact you to plan a visitation time
	14	Pre-K A.M. First Day of School (9-11am)
	15	3's First Day of School (9-11am)
	16	Wednesday 2's (9-11am) and Pre-K P.M. First Day of School (12:30-2:30pm)
October	1	Tuition Payments Due
	9 & 12	Fall Break
November	1	Tuition Payments Due
	3	No Preschool---Election Day
	25,26,27 & 30	Thanksgiving Vacation
December	1	Tuition Payments Due
	23 thru Jan 1	Christmas Vacation
January	1	Tuition Payments Due
	4	Preschool Reopens
	18	No Preschool (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)
February	1	Tuition Payments Due
	12 & 15	Winter Break
March	1	Tuition Payments Due
April	1	Tuition Payments Due
	1, 2 & 5	Spring Vacation
May	1	Tuition Payments Due
	12	Wednesday 2's Last Day of School
	14	Pre-K Last Day
	13	3's Last Day of School