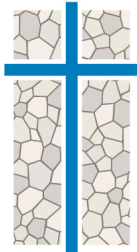


NEXTGEN MINISTRIES



St. Peter's by the Sea

The background of the page is a photograph of a modern building with a large arched entrance. In the foreground, there is a decorative fountain with water cascading over dark, wet rocks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the table of contents.

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A letter from REV. PAUL BARRETT

Beloved,

It is with great joy that I share with you about our church's commitment to children, youth, and families. Our congregation has a long-standing history of investing in the next generation, and we continue to prioritize these vital ministries today.

We believe that building authentic Christian community starts with our youngest members. Our goal is to create an environment where children and youth can grow in their faith and develop meaningful relationships with Jesus and one another. Through engaging programs, mentoring relationships, relevant outreach, and intentional discipleship, we seek to equip the next generation to be ambassadors of Christ in their communities and beyond.

Our commitment to children and youth extends beyond the walls of our church. We are passionate about reaching a diverse community and world with the hope, love, joy, and peace of God. We believe that our unity in Christ calls us to be agents of reconciliation and change, actively pursuing justice and mercy in our world.

As we look to the future, we are prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We are committed to staying rooted in our Biblical call to do justly and love mercy, and we will continue to seek new and innovative ways to serve the needs of our people and community.

Whether you are a member of our congregation or a visitor, this brochure is your invitation to join with us in this vital work. Together, we can make a lasting impact in the lives of children, youth and families in our church, in our communities and beyond.

With gratitude for what has been, what is, and what will be...

Be God's,

Rev. Paul Barrett
Lead Pastor



OUR MISSION

We welcome, empower, and transform the children, youth, and families within our reach to be followers of Jesus, equipping them to make a positive difference in the world.

OUR VALUES

> **Christ-Centered**

We find our identity, individually and together, in Jesus.

> **Mission-Oriented**

We live our faith by serving others.

> **Inclusive**

We welcome and celebrate human diversity by creating space for everyone.

> **Authentic**

We embrace the wholeness of our lived experience by expressing our true selves.

> **Loving**

We remember God's greatest commandment and always return to love.

FAITH FOUNDATIONS OF OUR NEXTGEN MINISTRIES



Personal Faith

We strive to cultivate an environment that encourages our young people to become lifelong and joyful followers of Jesus.



Faith in Community

We prioritize intergenerational life, modeling for our young people that they belong, that they matter, and that their faith grows best in relationship with others.



Faith for Community and the World

We encourage and demonstrate for our young people that our faith is lived out by using our gifts to love the world and all people.



Biblical Knowledge and Concepts

We instill a sense of wonder and curiosity that encourages our young people to know scripture, including how to study and engage with it.



Christian and Presbyterian Traditions and Rhythms

We invite families into meaningful celebrations marking the Christian year, engaging with one another in remembering God's work and redemptive story.

St. Peter's by the Sea

CHILDREN'S MILESTONES

Bringing Baby Home

Bringing Baby Home milestone is a way St. Peter's welcomes and celebrates the arrival of a new family member, honoring this joyous occasion through providing tangible support, including resources that equip families to establish their unique family culture that reflects God's love.

Baptism

We baptize children as a witness to the belief that God's love claims us before we are able to respond in faith and as a sign and seal of God's Grace in Christ. Parents and the congregation make promises during the baptism to fulfill their vital role of walking alongside each child on their journey of faith.

Start of School

Start of School is a significant moment in a child's life. St. Peter's celebrates the start of this new chapter through prayer and public recognition for the entire family.

3rd Grade Bible

3rd Grade Bible Presentation recognizes the child's growing ability to read and interact with Scripture, empowering parents and caregivers to support their child in establishing a love for, and interaction with, God's Word.

St. Peter's by the Sea

YOUTH MILESTONES

Middle School Launch

Middle School Launch is a celebration and an equipping event, recognizing the transition from children's to youth ministry. Each fifth grader is celebrated for their spiritual and emotional growth as they prepare to join the middle school ministry. Parents are equipped to continue to engage relationally and are empowered to continue having faith conversations with their preteens.

Confirmation

Confirmation is an intentional process of experiencing the life of faith by studying and discussing theology, serving, and building friendships. Teens have the opportunity to express a mature public affirmation of their faith and commit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism. They also get to select a mentor who will walk this journey with them.

High School Launch

High School Launch is a celebration and an equipping event, recognizing the transition from middle to high school. Each eighth grader is invited in to a place of belonging and celebration in high school ministry. Parents are equipped to continue to engage relationally and are empowered to continue having faith conversations with their teenagers.

Senior Blessing

Senior Blessing is a significant milestone for graduating high school seniors and their parents to remember and celebrate their student's faith journey to this point and to look forward to the significant new season ahead. During worship, the congregation will bless and pray for each senior and their parents, giving the students a Bible and inviting the St. Peters family to consistently hold the graduates in prayer.

St. Peter's by the Sea

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Nursery Childcare

Infants, toddlers, and younger preschool-aged children

Sunday Mornings during Worship

Experienced and trained caregivers provide a safe environment of play and care for the youngest ones of our church family.



The Shore

Preschool through 3rd Grade

Sundays during Worship Service

This age group begins worship in the Sanctuary with their families and then are excused during our Children's Blessing to be escorted to their classrooms. Here, children experience God's story through various learning modes. On Communion Sundays, children return to the Sanctuary to participate in Communion with the church family. All other Sundays, parents or designated parties may pick up children from their classrooms on the second floor of our education building.

The Trail

4th through 5th Grade

Sundays during Worship Service

Like our children in The Shore, this group begins worship in the Sanctuary with their families, and are then excused to their class for the remainder of the service. In addition to Sunday mornings, we offer fun and engaging events throughout the year to promote relational connections and fellowship.



St. Peter's by the Sea

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS



The Wave

Grades 6-8

Both middle and high school students gather on Sunday nights for youth group for food, games, and relevant discussions about the Bible, faith, and life.

Throughout the year, middle school students enjoy special activities such as Fall trips to the pumpkin patch, holiday parties, local service projects, seasonal retreats, and summer camp.



The Rock

Grades 9-12

In addition to Sunday night youth group, high school students experience the life of faith and build relationships through multiple trip and service project opportunities, including confirmation, house building in Tijuana, holiday events, seasonal retreats, and summer camp.



St. Peter's by the Sea

FAMILY SPECIAL EVENTS

Blessing of the Backpacks

A new school year is an exciting and important time in the life of children and parents. We celebrate this significant moment by praying a blessing over all those returning to school, reminding them that God is always with them and they have the support and prayers of their faith community.

Homecoming

Homecoming is the Sunday we kick off our fall programming, looking forward to a new year of ministry with our students and children. The children and youth meet their new leaders and the congregation enjoys food and fellowship, connecting after a busy summer. We rally to celebrate God's faithfulness and look forward to a new season of ministry and personal growth.

Advent Party

We set aside time to prepare our hearts for the Advent season through an engaging time of fun, food, and activities. This intergeneration event grounds us in community during a busy season and provides families with resources for walking the season intentionally and together at home as well.

Children's Christmas Play

What can be better than experiencing children sharing the story of Jesus' birth? The congregation gathers to celebrate, enjoying the sharing of the Christmas story and engaging in this significant and life-shaping tradition.

St. Peter's by the Sea

FAMILY MINISTRY SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Project

High school students have the opportunity to serve on mission to a designated community, engaging in physical, relational, and spiritual work, building connections and growing their cultural awareness.

Easter Egg Hunt

Held on Easter Sunday, this fun celebration reinforces the joy we experience in remembering Christ's resurrection.

NextGen Sunday

The children and youth of the congregation lead the adults in worship on this special Sunday. This experience reinforces the value the church places on empowering and discipling the children and youth of the congregation.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

A day-camp type experience every summer for our kids entering Kindergarten - 5th grade. With each year having it's own new, fun theme kids and volunteers enjoy great music, Bible stories, science, recreation, art, mission, snacks, and much, much more. Look for registration information every Spring. Middle school and high school students are encouraged to volunteer and gain leadership experience as a part of this community-focused program

Camp

We offer sleep-away camp experiences for upper elementary, middle, and high school students, providing students an opportunity to step away from the busyness of urban life to experience God and to grow their relationship with Jesus in beautiful outdoor spaces.

A letter from
ANNA SUDETH
Director of NextGen
Ministries

Dear Church Family,

I often hear that children and youth are the future of the church, which they are! They are also the present of the church. Our NextGen Ministries at St. Peter's by the Sea works to live out this reality by both preparing our children, youth, and families for the future that is in front of them and also by walking with them through their journeys of faith here and now. We take our calling seriously to be a safe place for all families to grow in faith and love together.

Believing that relationships are at the heart of Christian faith, we prioritize being a community together. Church school, Vacation Bible School, summer camp, youth group, parenting classes, small groups, and mission opportunities all provide occasions to learn and practice the truth that we are loved by God and that we each have special gifts to bring to this world that can make it more like God wants it to be.

It is my hope and prayer that every child, teen, and family that has an interaction with St. Peter's feels safe, experiences joy, and grows in faith. Whether we have known each other for decades, or we have not met yet, I also hope that in these pages you see a place where you and your family belong. I look forward to what is ahead and being on this journey of faith with you.

Peace and Blessings,

Anna Sudeth
Director of NextGen Ministries



OFFERINGS FOR PARENTS

St. Peter's provides diverse offerings for parents and adults, too! Educational and fellowship opportunities for adults are scheduled throughout the year, along with special events that provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship for the whole family. Watch for event information on the website, social media and through announcements at church.



GET INVOLVED

An invitation to Serve and Mentor the Most Significant Generation in the Church

St. Peter's NextGen Ministries depends on the generosity of volunteers who serve as role models for our young people and help make these many programs a reality. If you feel called to work directly with children or youth, or support the ministry from behind-the-scenes, we would LOVE to treat you to a cup of coffee and help find the right fit for you.

Please email Anna Sudeth: anna@spbts.org



OUR STAFF



ANNA SUDETH

NextGen Director

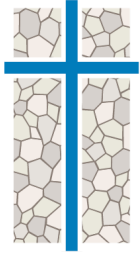
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St. Peter's by the Sea



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