



PHILOSOPHY OF YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY

The church worships better and more completely with young people in its midst. Second Presbyterian Church is committed to continuing its strong tradition of youth music ministries. Below are the primary goals of the Youth Music Program:

1. **Support the goals and values of the Youth Program** as set forth by the Youth Director and other leaders in the Youth Ministries Dept.
2. **A primary goal of the Youth Music Ministry is allow students to worship God through music.** In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote, "You who are hoping in Christ were destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory." We are all created with a basic need to worship God. Through participation in choir, students are enabled to worship through the ministry of music.
3. **The Youth Music Ministry encourages spiritual growth.** Students become familiar with scripture and scriptural truth through the songs they sing. These texts often stay with students their entire lives, molding and shaping their theology. In choir, Students have the opportunity to express their faith through music and in conversations, devotions and prayers during the rehearsal. These early expressions of faith then lead to public witness through participation in worship and other public performances.
4. **Youth choirs provide students with an important opportunity for community and connection.** As students rehearse together over a season and share their music in worship and other performances, a unique bond forms between them. These connections and friendships serve as a strong motivation for kids to come to church and participate in other youth programs.
5. **The Youth Music Ministry encourages personal and social growth.** Singers gain a sense of accomplishment from taking on a task and seeing it through to its conclusion. They grow in poise and self confidence through successful performances. They learn the responsibility and rewards of working together in a group.
6. **The Youth Music Ministry serves as a vital evangelistic outreach** to the students who might not otherwise be drawn to church.
7. **The Youth Music Ministry equips students with musical skills** such as reading music, rhythmic and vocal training, and ensemble skills such as part singing, tuning and blending. These skills enable each student to enjoy a lifetime of music.

8. Our youth choirs are musical groups, therefore they have musical goals. All of the above goals are served through the experience of performing good music well. Musical goals are not the center of the youth music program, but they are necessary for a healthy, vibrant program. These musical goals include:

- a. Performing music of the highest quality available.
- b. Singing choral music from a variety of musical styles, including traditional and contemporary.
- c. Bringing our best gifts to every rehearsal and performance. Working to create experiences of musical excellence that are rewarding for the singers and reflect God's glory and the majesty of Creation
- d. Honoring one another through the discipline of regular and punctual attendance.
- e. Touring regularly. Tours provide our choirs with the opportunity to bring their music to people outside of the boundaries of our church property. On music mission tours kids experience a tremendous amount of personal, musical and spiritual growth in just one week.

9. Our student singers are encouraged to experience the JOY of making music. Participation is stressed rather than performance. There is no audition. There are no performance requirements. Our leaders are loving and encouraging. The atmosphere is productive, but fun, safe and inclusive. We believe that our youth choirs should be an enjoyable experience!

10. Participation choir helps prepare students for a life of joyful service in the church. The ministry of youth choirs is a joyful expression of praise as well as a commitment to developing a deep love and understanding of worshipping God through music. Martin Luther referred to music as "a fair and glorious gift of God." We eagerly share this gift with our students.