

From Robbie  
Castleman's

## "Parenting In the Pew"

*"When we ask our children to pay attention, we often end up doing a better job of it ourselves. It is not unusual for parents to express delight as their own sense of worship is enhanced through practicing parenting in the pew. The liturgy becomes less routine and more relevant. Not because the words have changed, but because we listen again to the familiar and find that God is still speaking."*

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

*(Mark 10:14)*



What you know is happening in your pew.

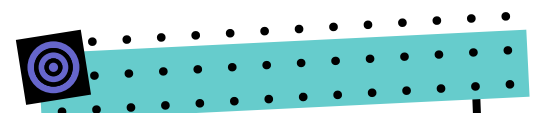


What the "rest of us" see ....



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## Parenting in the pew



*State College Presbyterian Church  
welcomes everyone to worship.  
That includes children! Children  
will learn a lot from sitting with  
family in the pews. Here are some  
tips that might make your morning  
more enjoyable!*

## ▶ Worship is for God's glory!

We live in a time where we can get online wherever we are, watch the latest YouTube video, and then text someone immediately. We can keep ourselves and our kids entertained while we are driving, or waiting at the dentist. It's a world of immediate entertainment!

But when it comes to worship, do we expect to be entertained there as well?

Worship is not a time to unwind, relax, or take a mental vacation. It is not an hour of entertainment, but a time for God's glory.

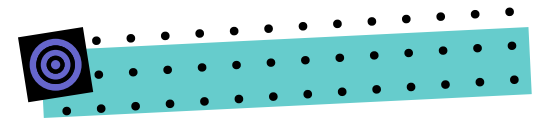
Worship is our time to honor and praise God. Worship is a challenge. With children it is a bigger challenge. But we wouldn't want any child to miss out on the one thing that they can do for a lifetime ... worship ... God.

So please bring them to worship. So they can *WATCH* you and other adults worship. And so they can also teach you how to respond to God!

### Helpful Tips

1. Sunday morning starts Saturday night. Talk about going to church the night before to prepare little hearts and little minds. Setting out clothes ahead makes the morning go much smoother.
2. Keep breakfast on Sunday simple.
3. Talk to your children about offering. They may or may not see you give, but it is important to start their giving practices early.
4. Sit up front in the sanctuary so your child can see more of the leadership, banners/table and choirs. Many people chose the back so they can escape when needed. However, children can participate better if they can see!
5. If your child has "graduated" from the programs that happen during worship, put a positive twist on *staying in worship* by reminding them that it is a privilege to stay for the whole service.

6. Limit distractions such as leaving for the bathroom or bringing toys.
7. In trying to teach your child to pay attention during worship, you will have to whisper and help them throughout the service. Using the bulletin to guide them and sharing a hymnal is a good place to start.
8. We provide children's bulletins for preschool and young elementary children, found at the back tables.
9. Yes - your child may stand in the aisle or young ones may stand on the pew to see.
10. Remember that no one minds the clapping or spontaneous outbursts as much as you do. It is okay if they act like a child!
11. Encourage your child to ask questions.



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