



Children's Ministry Dream Team

Transitional Task Force & Interim Process

Purpose: What is the Children's Ministry "Dream Team?"

The purpose of this team is to look to the future of our Children's Ministry to help it grow and thrive in a way that each child will be excited to learn about God's love at Begrass Christian Church and each parent feels fully connected and supported through our congregation. With the collective energy of this dream team, we will imagine all of the potential opportunities we have to enhance our children's programming, schedule, space, staffing, and more so that the generations now and yet to come may experience the very best of the church's love and support for all ages.

After 25 years of wonderful service to the church, there are no doubt big shoes to fill for whoever follows our beloved Rev. Steven Straub. Instead of immediately jumping to find "a replacement," this team will first pause to step back and think about the best possible future of our Children's Ministry so that we can figure out who will lead us into that future. By examining other thriving children's programs, researching online, collecting feedback, sharing memories/experiences, and dreaming together we will take this opportunity to both build on the past successes of our Children's Ministry as well as think about new ways that it can grow going forward. This information will then be used to craft a job description to find the next leader of our Children's Ministry.

High-level Summary of Dream Team Findings:

All of the following pages outline various aspects of the work of the team. **A job description for the interim position as well as job description options for the permanent position are derived out of the [research findings found on the last page of this document](#).**

Members of the Children’s Dream Team: A Transitional Task Force

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allison Dawson 2. Chelsea McPheeters 3. Katy Lyvers 4. Sarah Dotsey, 2025 Ministry Team Lead 5. Laura Curth Ellis 6. Henry Nebeta | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Deb Rakestraw 8. Brian Bennett 9. John Tremayne 10. Maureen Johnson 11. Leigh Turner 12. Dodi Hance 13. Trey Flowers |
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Schedule

Recruit members & schedule rooms; Develop Children’s Vision & Mission			
Sunday, October 13	10-11 AM	Conference Rm.	Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions ● Vision & Purpose ● Goals/Timelines ● Pinterest board ideas https://pin.it/5NFNmQsR ● Interim job description
Wednesday, October 16	6-7:30 PM	Board Rm. Zoom Link for 10/16	Brainstorming: Hexagon Method Sign up for Subgroups
Wednesday, October 23	6-7:30 PM	Board Rm. Zoom Link for 10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subgroup Planning ● Develop Survey Questions ● Share
Between 10/23 and 11/6 subgroups complete tasks; Leigh send out survey			
Wednesday, November 6	6-7:30 PM	Board Rm. Zoom Link for 11/6	Subgroup/Survey 1, 2 & Build On
Wednesday, November 13	6-7:30 PM	Board Rm. Zoom Link for 11/13	Subgroup/Survey 3, 4 & Build On
Wednesday, December 11	6-7:30 PM	Board Rm. Zoom Link for 12/11	Reflect and synthesize research and survey results

Subgroups (what to research in local, regional, and national areas):

- People: families, volunteers:** (Moe, Laura, Sarah)
 - What are your perceptions of volunteering with the children's programming?
 - How do you prefer to volunteer
 - What role do you believe the church should play in supporting your young family?
- Places: physical, virtual** (Brian, Chelsey, Dodi, Henry)
 - What kind of communication do you need for your birth-PreK child? K-2? 3-5?
(just the schedule/calendar, real-time online platform like in CDCs)
 - How do you prefer to learn about the topics your child is engaging in? (paper, email, facebook, etc.?)
 - What would make the children's space more engaging?
 - What would make the children's space more welcoming?
 - What would make the children's space more safe?
 - How can we redesign the children's space to better support spiritual growth, learning, and foster stronger connections between children, families, and the wider community?
- Programming: weekly** (Allison, Katy)
 - What programming would your child/family be interested in? (Please list current BCC programming or new ideas)
 - How would you prefer to receive communication about children's programming and your child's experience, etc. (e.g. app, text, email)
 - Which days/times are ideal for your family?
 - What are the most important weekly programming for your family?
 - What weekly programming is not important for your family?
- Programming: special** (Deb, John)
 - What special event/activity would you like BCC Children and Family ministry offer in the future?
 - How would you like to see BCC children (families) more involved in the life of the church?
 - What activities kept your children and youth waiting to come back to BCC?
 - If your child is not a regular attender, or church is a non-preferred activity, what programming offer would entice more regular attendance?
 - What are the most important special events for your family?
 - What special events is not important for your family?

Survey Audiences:

- Children-directly (connect in a way that is appropriate)
- Parents-directly email
- Youth-directly email/(connect in a way that is appropriate)
- General Congregation through eNews

Birth - Pre-K (Ark Wing)

Current Programming/Schedule

Click [this link](#) to open the spreadsheet in a reader-friendly version

Sunday Morning <i>(Every Sunday)</i>	Sunday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Wednesday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Special Events	Location
Childcare 8:30-12:30				ARK Wing
Sunday School 10:00-10:50				ARK Wing
Melody Makers (choir) 9:50-10:10				ARK Wing
			Drive-In Movie Night <i>(build cars and watch movie) one evening per year</i>	Chalice Hall & Fellowship Hall
		Childcare 5:30-7:30		ARK Wing
			PDO (Parents Day Out) <i>M/W 4 hours, JCPS schedule</i>	ARK Wing

Grades K-2 (Elementary)

Current Programming/Schedule

Click [this link](#) to open the spreadsheet in a reader-friendly version

Sunday Morning <i>(Every Sunday)</i>	Sunday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Wednesday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Special Events	Location
Worship and Wonder <i>During 9am worship, following the Children's Moment</i>				Upstairs Sunday School Wing
Sunday School 10-10:50				Upstairs Sunday School Wing
		Handbells 6-6:30		Upstairs Sunday School Wing
		Bible Study & Choir 6:30-7:00		Upstairs Sunday School Wing
			Drive-In Movie Night <i>(build cars and watch movie) one evening per year</i>	Chalice Hall & Fellowship Hall
			"Primary Adventure" Outings <i>(bowling, etc.) quarterly usually Sundays after church</i>	Upper Room, Activities Building, Community
			Bible School <i>annually in summer S-Th evenings</i>	Chalice Hall & Sunday School Wing
			Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho <i>brief experience for a day or two in the summer</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho in Yosemite, KY

Grades 3-5 (Elementary)

Current Programming/Schedule

Sunday Morning (Every Sunday)	Sunday Nights (During School Year)	Wednesday Nights (During School Year)	Special Events	Location
Following Jesus <i>During 9am worship, following the Children's Moment</i>				Upstairs Sunday School Wing
Sunday School 10-10:50				Upstairs Sunday School Wing
	JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) <i>Group activities</i> 4:30-6:00			Upper Room, Activities Building
		Handbells 6-6:30		Upstairs Sunday School Wing
		Bible Study & Choir 6:30-7:00		Upstairs Sunday School Wing
			Lock-In <i>Annually</i>	Upper Room, Youth Space, Gym, Community
			Children's Sunday <i>Annually in the fall</i>	Sanctuary
			Breakfast with Santa <i>Saturday mornings</i>	Chalice Hall
			Easter Egg Hunt <i>Saturday before Easter</i>	Brown Park
			Vacation Bible School <i>Annually in summer</i> Sun-Th evenings	Chalice Hall & Sunday School Wing
			Mission Day Camp <i>Annually in summer</i> M-F all day	Upper Room, Activities Building, Community

			Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho <i>Annually in summer M-F overnight</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho in Yosemite, KY
			Discipleship Retreat <i>5th graders for Baptism Saturday all day</i>	Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary

Grades 6-8 ("Chi Rho")

Current Programming/Schedule

Click [this link](#) to open the spreadsheet in a reader-friendly version

Sunday Morning <i>(Every Sunday)</i>	Sunday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Wednesday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Special Events	Location
Sunday School 10-10:50				Youth Space
	Chi Rho youth group 4:30-6:00			Youth Space, Activities Building
	Open Gym 6:00-7:00			Activities Building
		Youth Praise Band/Team 5:30-6:30		Sanctuary
		Bible Study 6:30-7:00		Youth Space
		Open Gym 7:00-8:00		Activities Building
			Lock-In <i>Annually</i>	Youth Space, Activities Building, Community
			Retreat(s) <i>per semester?</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho or other retreat center
			Youth Sunday annually	Sanctuary

			Easter Egg Hunt Volunteering <i>Saturday morning</i>	Brown Park
			Mission Trip <i>Annually in summer 4-6 days overnight</i>	Somewhere within a few hours
			Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho <i>Annually in summer M-S overnight</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho in Yosemite, KY

Grades 9-12 ("CYF" - Christian Youth Fellowship)

Current Programming/Schedule

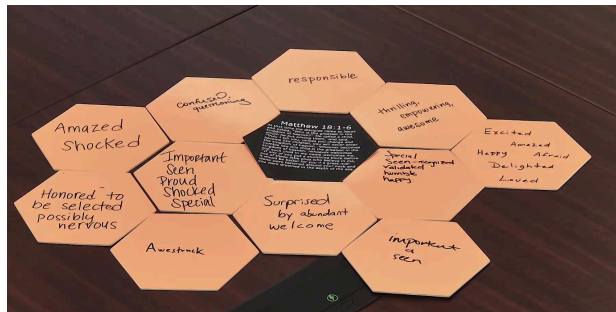
Click [this link](#) to open the spreadsheet in a reader-friendly version

Sunday Morning <i>(Every Sunday)</i>	Sunday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Wednesday Nights <i>(During School Year)</i>	Special Events	Location
Sunday School 10-10:50				Youth Space
	CYF Youth Group 4:30-6:00			Youth Space, Activities Building
	Open Gym 6:00-7:00			Activities Building
		Hang Out Time 5:00-5:30		Youth Space
		Youth Praise Band/Team 5:30-6:30		Sanctuary
		Bible Study 6:30-7:00		Youth Space
		Open Gym 7:00-8:00		Activities Building
			Lock-In <i>Annually?</i>	Youth Space, Activities Building, Community
			Retreat(s) <i>Per semester?</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho or other retreat center
			Youth Sunday <i>Annually, usually in later winter or spring</i>	Sanctuary
			Easter Egg Hunt Volunteering <i>Saturday morning</i>	Brown Park
			Mission Trip <i>Annually in summer 4-6 days overnight</i>	Various

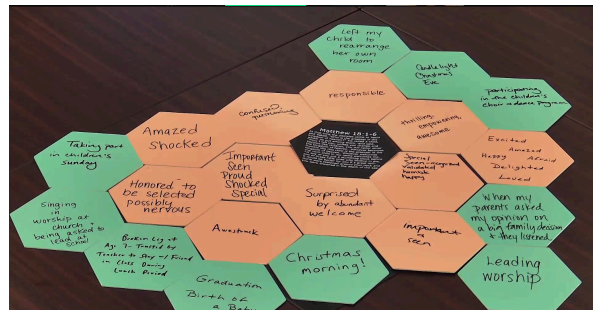
			Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho <i>Annually in summer M-S overnight</i>	Camp Wa Kon' Da-Ho in Yosemite, KY
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From Meeting 1

How kids may feel in the presence of Jesus?



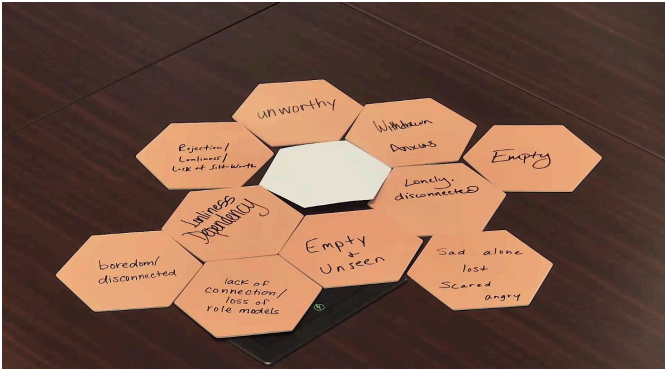
Moments of this feeling with Jesus



Programs that make kids feel close to Jesus



What feelings might kids have if these went away?



What above programming would help these feelings?



What are we not currently doing to help these feelings?



Subgroup Research

[Children's Programming \(Weekly\)](#)

[1. Children's Programming \(Special Events\)](#)

[2. Children's Programming \(Special Events\)](#)

[3. Children's Programming \(Special Events\)](#)

People Subgroup Research

The People subgroup focused on two primary areas: volunteer engagement and family involvement. We reviewed best practices from regional churches and notable community organizations to guide our research.

For volunteers, our research revealed that being upfront and transparent about the level of commitment required reduced barriers to participation. Additionally, offering a variety of volunteer opportunities—from low to high commitment—enables individuals to choose roles that align with their availability and capacity. This approach empowers them to make informed decisions about their level of involvement.

Regarding family involvement, our key insight was the importance of adopting a *family-centric* approach. By offering programs tailored to both children and caregivers, our church can position itself as a central hub for supporting families. This aligns with our mission to grow with love and allows us to address the diverse needs of the families we serve.

Places Subgroup Research

The Places subgroup has identified several key needs to support the future growth and effectiveness of Beargrass's Children's Ministry. Our review and analysis highlighted the importance of creating a sensory and gross motor play area to better accommodate diverse needs and enhance children's engagement. Relatedly, we believe it is critical to consider the whole family, and include a dedicated space for parents to meet and congregate while their children are learning or playing, fostering community and connection among families. Improved signage and a central intake area are essential for ensuring a welcoming and streamlined experience for visitors and regular attendees alike, while reducing the number of entry points will enhance safety and security. Additionally, we envision an outdoor playground to encourage active play and interaction, complemented by more games and opportunities for hands-on, active learning within indoor spaces. Expanding online options can provide greater accessibility for families unable to attend in person and offer supplemental resources for spiritual growth at home. We recommend developing engaging virtual programming, such as interactive lessons, live-streamed events, and an easily navigable platform for parents to access educational materials, event updates, and community-building tools. These enhancements aim to create a vibrant, inclusive, and functional environment for children, families, staff, and volunteers for decades to come.