

Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Community Life

Job Summary

The Pastor of Children, Youth, and Community Life will foster belonging and the development of faith in community across all stages of life. This role includes developing and overseeing ministry programs for children and youth and their caregivers. The ideal candidate will engage the congregation in holistic, intergenerational ministry, fostering a nurturing environment that encourages spiritual growth, and meaningful community relationships.

Ministry Vision and Philosophy

Madison Square Presbyterian Church is committed to fostering an inclusive, intergenerational community where people experience God's love, grow in faith, and engage in justice work with compassion and humility. We value integrity, inclusivity, authenticity, inquisitiveness, and collaboration, encouraging each person to share their unique gifts. Our ministry seeks to advocate for those on the margins, build bridges across divides, and pursue reconciliation in ways that reflect the heart of Christ.

Primary Responsibilities

Children and Youth Ministry

- Develop and implement a socially engaged Christian education program for children and youth that teaches progressive theology at age-appropriate levels.
- Recruit and train volunteers to support children and youth programming, including child protection policy training for volunteers and staff.
- Build relationships with children, youth, their families and caregivers, providing pastoral support and resources to help them grow in faith, confidence, and love.
- Plan, facilitate, and lead gatherings, trips, and community events that help children find their place in God's world.
- Serve as a mentor and spiritual guide for youth, fostering an environment where they feel valued and supported in their faith journey.
- Organize intergenerational activities that connect children and youth with other members of the church and encourage their active participation in the broader life of the congregation.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

- Assist in building connections with the surrounding community to offer meaningful outreach and service opportunities, encouraging children, youth, and families to actively participate in community service and social justice.

- Assist in promoting education and action on social justice issues that align with the church's mission, integrating these themes into youth and children's programming.

Social Media and Digital Engagement

- Develop and manage social media content that highlights intergenerational ministry activities and fosters digital community.
- Collaborate with the church's communications team to ensure consistent and meaningful engagement on social media platforms.
- Use social media to share resources, events, and support for children, youth, and families.

Additional Responsibilities

- Collaborate with the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff and church leadership to plan and lead worship services, preaching approximately twelve times a year.
- Participate in Presbytery, staff meetings, church committees, and planning sessions to align ministries with the broader goals and mission of the church.
- Support the work of the Deacons in their ministries of care, service, and congregational connection.
- Support adult faith formation by helping develop, coordinate, and lead opportunities for spiritual growth, theological reflection, and community learning.
- Assist the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff in providing pastoral counseling and support to individuals and families, including visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and those in crisis situations.
- Coordinate with the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff in leading worship, preaching, and officiating at weddings, funerals, and other ceremonies as needed.

Qualifications

- **Master of Divinity (M.Div.)** or a comparable degree required. PCUSA preferred.
- Demonstrated experience in children's and/or youth ministry and pastoral care.
- Strong communication, organizational, and digital media skills, with an ability to engage individuals of all ages.
- Proficiency with social media platforms and a commitment to leveraging digital tools is preferred.
- Passionate about social justice and committed to fostering an inclusive, supportive environment.