**St. John’s United Church of Christ, Waukegan, IL**

**TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, WELCOME!**

May we suggest: relax! God put the wiggle in small children, please do not feel you have to suppress it in God’s house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front, where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on up front. They tire of seeing the backs of other’s heads. (Don’t you?)

Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the participants (the Pastor, Reader and Communion Servers, Choir and Musicians, etc.) All children of any age are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Consult with the Pastor if you have questions. Really, everyone is welcome to receive.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. You may also hear the service out in the narthex (entryway) and see the service through the glass. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

There are books and activities in the narthex to keep them entertained if they lose focus. You may also bring your own from home. The back side of this card is an excellent place for doodling and drawing and coloring!

**TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN’S UCC**

The presence of children is a gift to the Church, and they are a reminder that our church is growing. Please welcome children and give a smile of encouragement and welcome to their families.

**St. John’s United Church of Christ, Waukegan, IL**

**TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, WELCOME!**

May we suggest: relax! God put the wiggle in small children, please do not feel you have to suppress it in God’s house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front, where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on up front. They tire of seeing the backs of other’s heads. (Don’t you?)

Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the participants (the Pastor, Reader and Communion Servers, Choir and Musicians, etc.) All children of any age are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Consult with the Pastor if you have questions. Really, everyone is welcome to receive.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. You may also hear the service out in the Narthex (entryway) and see the service through the glass. As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

There are books and activities in the Narthex to keep them entertained if they lose focus. You may also bring your own from home. The back side of this card is an excellent place for doodling and drawing and coloring!

**TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN’S UCC**

The presence of children is a gift to the Church, and they are a reminder that our church is growing. Please welcome children and give a smile of encouragement and welcome to their families.