



Mount Seymour
United Church

CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEEN & HEARD ...& BELIEVED



Children & Youth Minister Wade Lifton

Mount Seymour United Church doesn't look that different from other churches but Children and Youth Minister, Wade Lifton, wants you to know that Mount Seymour is a **Different Kind of Church** - where children are an important part of experiencing the sacred in community. "We focus on creating a space for everyone - all ages and backgrounds," says Wade. "There aren't a lot of places anymore where people of all ages

get to build friendships and learn from each other."

Walking into the church on a Sunday morning you'll see kids sitting on a colourful, blanket, keeping their hands busy while Reverend Nancy Talbot speaks from the pulpit a few feet away. Parents with babies and young toddlers watch and listen from the nursery. Youth sit in the back and finish texting their last message before the service starts. "We tell people to come as they are which means kids are allowed to be kids. The days of expecting children to be still and silent in church are over."

"The freedom and encouragement of the children helps me to relax in church," says

Cindy, a congregation member and parent.

Part way through the morning, youth go to their programs, and the children head to one of two Godly Play classrooms. Godly Play is a Montessori based approach to spiritual formation and religious education that is used in churches all over the world. Children are individually welcomed at the door and invited into a classroom with beautifully crafted stories and a variety of response materials. Together they experience a story, wonder about the story's meaning, and then choose materials to participate in. Through this discovery process children learn and practice expressing and exploring the sacred. "They are not told what

to believe. We trust their experiences of the divine" says Lifton. "Together they experience a story, wonder about the story's meaning, and then choose materials to respond with."

Vikki, a parent of two, says, "What a great place Mt Seymour is - I feel just so blessed to have moved to a

community with such an amazing church to raise my kids in and grow with myself."

Join us on Sunday and bring the kids... Nursery care is available.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH FALL SERMON SERIES, SUNDAYS 10 AM

- Oct. 18: The God I Don't Believe In
- Oct. 25: Jesus Who Didn't Die for My Sins
- Nov. 1: The Bible God Didn't Write
- Nov. 8: The Heaven I'm Not Dying to Get Into

For past sermons see website



To learn more about Mount Seymour United Church
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