

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP UNIVERSITY

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Early Bird Session

Friday, 1:45pm

Circle Up the Wagons! – Whitney Head

Come join the drum circle as soon as you arrive! Participate in several drum circle games and activities you can use with your children, from preschool through upper elementary. Learn teaching techniques and strategies for adapting drum circle for mixed ages and abilities, rhythm sticks, or just body percussion.

Break Out Sessions

Friday, 3:30pm

Moovin' Moovin' Moovin' – Darlene Abbott

Movement is a great way to feed the brain. But it can also enhance classroom activities, transition from one activity to another, and simply make things more fun. Learn how to use movement strategically throughout any music time. Be ready to move! [Preschool – 2nd Grade]

● *This class is repeated Saturday at 11:45.*

We Are God's Masterpiece – James Barnard

Each of us cowboys and cowgirls is a work of art, especially the youngest cowpokes! Together, we'll unpack the Spring curriculum for Preschool/Kindergarten children, and discover fun, creative Songs and Activities, KIDPages, Teaching Steps, Colorful Visuals, and more! [Preschool]

Trail Map: Activities and Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom – Kimberly Ingram and Sam Nester

This summer, Kim and Sam helped to lead a week-long fine-arts camp for teens and young adults who have cognitive differences. It was a brand-new trail, and the lessons learned have inspired insights and teaching strategies. Join Kim and Sam to talk about Autism, Down's Syndrome, neurodivergence, and the gifts of an inclusive classroom. You will leave with a new trail map full of specific music and percussion activities and simple classroom adaptations to help you reach ALL your unique students. [Grades 4-6]

Why We Should Disciple our Children for "Big Church" – Andrew Pressley

Age-focused ministries can be helpful, but God intends for the main gathering of the church to be the central means of discipleship for every generation. Come prepared to strengthen your commitment to engaging children in corporate worship and be inspired to spread the conviction among your church leadership! [All Ages]

The Road to Love for Music is Laden With Games – David Talaguit

Your students will beg for these games while developing their singing, musicality, and love for God. Be ready to sing, play instruments, move, and be a kid again! [All ages]

Friday, 3:30pm (continued)***Training the Tenderfeet: Rhythmic Concepts – Lynette Vincent***

Rhythmic concepts that are appropriate for elementary children's choirs, how to identify these in worship music used in your church, and how to teach these rhythmic concepts in fun interactive ways with easy-to-make manipulatives and visuals. You will leave with materials that you will be able to use with your children! *1 Chronicles 25:7* [Grades 1-6]

Friday – 4:45pm***Saddle Up with Singing and Steady Beat – Darlene Abbott***

Steady beat helps develop pitch in young ears. Come and experience basic singing techniques. These techniques are easy to use and implement with any song. [Preschool – 2nd Grade]

We Are God's Masterpiece – James Barnard

We'll ride high in the saddle as we survey the Spring curriculum for Elementary children, and experience the fun, creative Songs and Activities, Warm-ups, Energizers, Hymns, KIDPages, Teaching Steps, Colorful Visuals, and more! [Elementary]

This Ain't our First Trail Ride: A Look at Classroom Management – Kathy Gilliland, Angela Irby and Stacy Porter

Not planning is planning to fail! Wrangle up with Kathy, Angela and Stacy, who share over 100 years of children's music experience, as they share tried and true ways to manage, structure, and plan your children's choir or worship times. Includes looking at ways to help the active child stay engaged and to encourage participation from the child who is very quiet! [All Ages]

That was FUN! – Whitney Head

Don't forget to drink your coffee, and come ready to move and have fun! In this session, you will learn new games, icebreakers, and action songs designed to get your choir laughing, moving, and interacting with one another. [All Ages]

Sunny Skies or Stormy Weather, We Will Ride This Trail Together: The Gifts and Challenges of the Inclusive Classroom – Kimberly Ingram and Sam Nester

Inclusive classrooms offer priceless gifts – but there will be stormy weather days. Let's talk about strategies to keep our group moving together on the trail. Bring your questions! As a person with autism, percussion specialist and future music therapist Sam Nester (Mr. Sam) will share his perspective on how your neurodivergent students may perceive and respond to your classroom. Then Sam and Kim will lead warm-ups, games, and percussion activities that will help you navigate the trail – whatever the weather! [Grades 4-6]

A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Beat – David Talaguit

Incorporating instruments into your programs is easier than you think. Learn how to use simple rhythmic patterns (through speaking, body percussion, movement, and instrument playing) that will wow your congregation. [All ages]

Saturday – 9:00am***Clippity Cloppity Instruments – Darlene Abbott***

Instruments are fun, necessary, and part of the building blocks for musical concepts. We will look at creative ways to use instruments that will add interest and worship to your music time and draw in a variety of learning styles. [Preschool – 2nd Grade]

Sing and Play the Preschool Way – James Barnard

Join us on the Preschool Ranch as we round up fun ways for young voices to discover basic music concepts. Through songs and activities, we will explore steady beat, dynamics, tempo, pitch, rhythm, and much, much more! [Preschool]

We’ve Got the Beat – Whitney Head

In this session geared towards younger children and preschool leaders, we will explore all things steady beat! A strong understanding of steady beat is the foundation of rhythm, so it is important that we provide opportunities for children to feel the beat through play, movement, games, chants, and instruments. Let’s have fun keeping the beat together! [Preschool – 3rd Grade]

Happy Trails and Campfire Tales: Sound Stories that Teach Scripture through Rhyme, Rhythm, SFX, Movement, and Percussion – Kimberly Ingram

How did our Bible stories get passed down through the generations 2,000 years ago? Through spoken word – stories shared with rhythm, rhyme, repetition, sound effects, and *excitement!* Let’s gather around the campfire and visit Noah on the ark, Jesus in the boat, Moses carrying “God’s Great 10,” and Paul wearing the full armor of God. You will gain strategies that hold attention and make Scripture vibrant and memorable. And you’ll leave with your choice of sound story, ACC track and lesson plan. [Grades 1-6]

Selecting “Big Church” Songs for Children – Andrew Pressley

Some corporate worship songs are better for children than others. In this breakout, we’ll discuss criteria for congregational music that connects well with children and share ideas and resources for songs that succeed in this task. [All Ages]

Road Less Travelled: Kid-Generated Program – David Talaguit

Most of the time our students enter the picture when it is already time to rehearse. Find out how easy it is to include them from beginning to end, from planning to writing and performing. [All ages]

Skillful Song: Singing Foundations for Children for a Lifetime of Worship – Lynette Vincent

Vocal warm-ups, healthy singing, and diction for elementary-aged children. *1 Chronicles 25:7*
[Grades 1-6]

Saturday – 10:30am***Tumbleweeds – Worship for Young Children – Darlene Abbott***

Worship is not tumbleweeds blowing across a field. Learn how to make worship times intentional for young children and provide families with ideas to enhance these moments at home. We will dig into the how and why we teach worship. Are we being effective when teaching worship or are we spinning our wheels in a rut. We will discuss children’s worship “must have” elements and the variety that we can use to accomplish the goal. [Preschool – 3rd Grade]

Saturday – 10:30am (continued)***This Ain't Our First Trail Ride: A Look at Children's Worship Resources and Music – Kathy Gilliland, Angela Irby and Stacy Porter***

Need to know how to find the best children's music and resources? Join Kathy, Angela and Stacy, who share over 100 years of children's music experience as they lasso up resource and music ideas. They'll share their list of the best children's music and worship resources as well as their favorite go-to places for songs and musicals for your choir. With so many options available, they will also share how they make decisions on what to use! [All ages]

“Let All the Peoples Praise Him!” – Whitney Head

In this session, we will explore songs and activities to help foster a global perspective and missional mindset in our children. Through language songs, folk dances, games, and other activities, we can encourage the children in our choirs to value all people and to think more missionally about the world around them. [All Ages]

A Portrait of a Transformative Children's Music Ministry – Maria Monteiro

In this interactive session, we will consider the seven components of a transformative children's music ministry. These seven themes have emerged from an on-going study conducted by a team from Baylor University's Dunn Center for Christian Music Studies titled “Shaping Young Worshipers Through Transformative Music Ministry” (funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.). After a brief overview of the goals and activities of this project, participants will be invited to engage on the design of this proposed portrait, offering contributions based on their own experiences and context. We hope this session will inspire participants to continue the vital work of nurturing young worshipers in their faith communities. [All ages]

Teaching “Big Church” Songs to Children – Andrew Pressley

Attend this session to be equipped with practical strategies for helping children to own songs for congregational worship as their music. We'll discuss ways to teach your children the music and to help them hide God's word (in song) in their hearts. [All Ages]

Road Map to an Engaging, Well-Managed Rehearsal – David Talaguit

From the moment they come in until the time they leave, learn how to keep your students engaged with easy practical strategies that will promote teamwork, respect and leadership. [All ages]

All Join In – Movement and Engaging Activities for Children's Choir – Lynette Vincent

How to use movement and hands-on activities to encourage student involvement in singing and music making. *Ephesians 5:19* [Grades 1-6]

Saturday – 11:45am***Moovin' Moovin' Moovin' – Darlene Abbott (Repeat)***

Movement is a great way to feed the brain. But it can also enhance classroom activities, transition from one activity to another, and simply make things more fun. Learn how to use movement strategically throughout any music time. Be ready to move! [Preschool – 2nd Grade]

Saturday – 11:45am (continued)***Choosing and Writing Songs for Children + Bonus Reading Session – James Barnard***

We'll rustle up some do's and don'ts of writing and selecting songs that will inspire spiritual and musical growth in children. We'll consider the philosophy behind songwriting, as well as individual song elements, such as lyrics, melody, rhythm, accompaniment, and added instruments. In addition, we'll take a look at some of the exciting new anthems for Spring. [All Ages]

This Ain't our First Trail Ride: How to Plan a Choir Year – Kathy Gilliland, Angela Irby and Stacy Porter

An effective children's choir or worship program doesn't just happen by accident! Join Kathy, Angela and Stacy, who share over 100 years of children's music experience for a Hoe-down good time as they share tips and tricks for planning your choir year in a way that makes a lasting impact on the lives of children and their families. [All Ages]

Beyond the Song: Creative Worship Integration – Whitney Head

In this session, we will think outside the box about how our children can be involved in leading worship. Alongside singing anthems, children can help lead through visual art, video, and media, playing instruments, scripture presentations and more. Whether you have 2 or 200, the children in your church have unique gifts that can be used in worship! [All Ages]

Teaching Music Principles From "Big Church" Songs – Andrew Pressley

Congregational music provides a ready opportunity to help your children grow as musicians. Join us to learn strategies to use the music that your children already know to develop musical skills like aural skill, music theory, and musicianship. [All Ages]

Training the Tenderfeet: Tonal/Melodic Concepts – Lynette Vincent

Tonal or pitch concepts that are appropriate for elementary children's choirs, how to identify these in worship music used in your church, how to teach these concepts in fun, interactive ways with easy-to-make manipulatives and visuals. You will leave with materials that you will be able to use with your children! *1 Chronicles 25:7* [Grades 1-6]