



Preschool Announcement

After much thought, discussion, and prayer, we have decided to close the preschool in May 2024, at the end of the current academic year.

We recently asked ourselves whether and how the preschool continued to fit into our mission as a church – a question we regularly ask about all areas of ministry to ensure we are stewarding resources well. This began a series of conversations that ultimately resulted in the closure decision, which is affirmed by our elders, Strategic Leadership Team, and Preschool Director, Tammy Paszkiewicz.

The decision is primarily based on a shift in the direction and focus of our ministry in recent years.

Southbrook Church is now in its 27th year and has been involved in all kinds of ministry during that time. Several years ago, we clarified our mission as being to glorify God by making disciples who make a big deal of Jesus where we live, learn, work, and play.

More recently, church planting has become an important part of accomplishing that mission. It will be a significant focus for us in 2024 as we prepare to plant our first church in Indian Land and into the future as we plant and then support others.

This means we need to invest our limited resources in the ministries and activities that have the greatest impact on two things: making disciples and planting churches.

The preschool has enjoyed a wonderful season of providing Christ-centered early childhood education, impacting many families in our community. However, as we shift to a new season in the life of Southbrook Church, our greatest discipleship opportunities now lie elsewhere. Closing the preschool will simplify our ministry and further sharpen our focus on the specific things God has called us to do. This is consistent with similar decisions we've made about other ministries over the years.

Several other factors contributed to the decision:

First, our church staff supports the preschool in various ways, including communications, facilities, and finance. Closing the preschool will create additional capacity, enabling our staff to support discipleship and church planting activities more effectively.

Second, pressure on our facilities has increased over time, and the kids' building is now used by the preschool, kids ministry, and student ministry each week, in addition to other groups and events. This results in scheduling, set-up and tear-down challenges, and increased wear and tear on the building, taking additional resources to manage.

Making a big deal of Jesus where we live, learn, work, and play.



SOUTHBROOK CHURCH

Finally, current preschool revenue does not entirely cover its direct costs. This is before indirect costs such as the support provided by church staff and maintenance and repairs are considered. Although increasing tuition would address this issue, it wouldn't affect the other, more significant, factors contributing to the decision.

We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have impacted so many families over the years and for our dedicated staff who have served those families so faithfully. We know this is hard news to hear, but it's not a decision we've taken lightly. We firmly believe it's what God is leading us to do so we can accomplish the mission He has given us as effectively as possible.

Our heart is to honor the families we serve by finishing well and we're committed to continuing to give each student a great preschool experience each day through May 23, 2024.

If you have any questions, or if we can help in any way as you make future plans for your student, Tammy would be happy to talk by phone or in person – just let her know.

Thank you for being part of our wonderful preschool community!

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