

It's time for Children's Church at The Door

Written by By Dee Velasco For the Sun
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FUN, LAUGHTER, PUPPETS — AT CHURCH

It was fun, laughter, and puppets at the reopening of the Children's Church service at The Door Gallup Christian Fellowship Church located at 2133 Cipriano Drive, Gallup, on Oct. 11. Kids along with their parents eagerly awaited the start up of the Children's Church for the first time since the pandemic. Regular church services had begun again, but the Children's Church was still on stand-by.

Until the reopening, virtual Children's Church was held online during these past months. Taking over the usual evening service by young adult church workers, leaders engaged the audience to sing with them and demonstrated how the children would sing the songs. Tony Vitali, who is a part of the children's ministry, was excited to help bring back Children's Church.

"We wanted to show the kids that it's back again and to show the parents what we're doing and teaching, making sure it lines up with the word of God [bible]."

Vitali said it's fun for the kids and provides a rare opportunity to minister to the adults, too.

The service included a puppet show, which was followed by a skit on teaching children how to pray. Then it was "Story time with Mrs. B." "Mrs. B" otherwise known as Cheri Bertinetti, read a story to help children understand the bible along with funny antics from two puppets dressed as elderly men, who chimed in with jokes making everyone laugh. Helping her with the story was her husband, Jerry Bertinetti, who voiced the puppets. Both have been active with the church since it began over 40 years ago.

"I'm so excited, so excited to see the little kids and see what God will do in their lives" she said.

Children's Church ended the service with a dark-light puppet show entitled "Highway to Heaven" with a music take off on the classic rock band AC/DC's "*Highway to Hell*."

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The Door has held previous children's church puppet presentations that set them apart. High-tech lighting, a state of the art sound system, and talented church volunteers, create a professional environment.

Leo Lucero, a retired electrician for the City of Gallup, handles all technical prepping.

"It's exciting and always a pleasure to have the Children's Church do a production, lots of bible teaching for the kids and adults," Lucero said. "It takes a lot of hard work, the prep work, mics, lights, and other stuff. It's a little bit of work, but it's worth it and good to see the Children's Church up and running again."

Children's Church is held every Sunday night at 6:30 pm.

For more information on The Door Gallup Christian Center Church visit www.thedoorgallup.com or call (505) 399-8323.

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