



## Fall Newsletter

*“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

### **PROMOTION SUNDAY**

Children will move up to their new Sunday School classes on Sunday, September 10. Those entering second grade will move upstairs to the Rotation Station gathering which begins in the chapel. Those who are moving to sixth grade will meet Mark Earnesty in room 207. Be sure to thank your teachers from this year who have shared God's love with you!



### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

As we prepare to start a new school year, we invite children of all ages and teachers, coaches, bus drivers, etc. to ask God's blessing on their scholastic endeavors at our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday, September 3. Please bring your backpack with you to worship that day. Our pastors will lead us in praying over your backpacks for a good school year. We will even have a special item to attach to your backpack to help us remember that His Spirit goes with us all through the school day.

### **MINISTRY FAIR**

Sunday, September 17 will be our annual ministry fair. Invite your friends and neighbors! Displays and information about the various ministries of FUMC will be on display. Breakfast will be available from 8:30 until 10:30 and then hotdogs and snacks will be available from 10:30 until 12:30.

### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

As we start a new year of programs for children here at FUMC, we want to be sure that we are keeping our children as safe. This is a large building with hundreds of people in and out each day. Remember that **ALL children** under sixth grade must be accompanied by an adult at all times. You must walk your child to and from Sunday School. Also any groups of children must be supervised by two adults. This is not just a way to keep them safe, but is part of our child protection policy and connected to our church's insurance policy.



Please register your children for Sunday School. If you are in the master roster, you can just check for changes and initial instead of filling out another form. When you do this, you will be asked to list allergies as well as all people who may pick up your child. Teachers will quickly get to recognize the parents, but as this familiarization occurs you may be asked to show ID. Please be patient. We are must making sure that we protect our children.

## CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Once again this year we will celebrate the National Children's Sabbath with our children leading us in worship at all of our Sunday worship services on October 29. Mark your calendars now!!! Our theme will be "Friends With Jesus." There is a way for everyone to participate. Rising fifth graders have the opportunity to share their own testimony and help with the sermon. We also need scripture readers, acolytes, ushers, readers for prayers, call to worship, benediction, artists for the bulletin, musicians, dancers, and anyone who wants to participate. Children should let Shannon know now how you would like to serve in worship on this day. We will have a rehearsal for the traditional services on Wednesday, October 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 and on Saturday, October 28 from 2:00 - 3:00 for the contemporary service. Third grade Bibles will be distributed this day. Please pray for our children as they prepare to lead us!



## THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Each year, FUMC presents its third graders with Bibles of their own. We will be presenting these on the Children's Sabbath - October 29. During our "Grade Level Studies" program on Wednesday nights during October and November, third graders will have a special class opportunity to learn more about using their Bibles. If you have a rising third grade child, please let us know how you would like their name printed on the Bible as well as which service you will attend that day. Please return these to Shannon Bolick (office #203) by Sunday, September 24. Please print clearly and include middle name or initial IF DESIRED.

CHILD'S NAME AS YOU WANT IT PRINTED:

\_\_\_\_\_



PARENTS' NAMES and PHONE NUMBERS:

\_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE YOU WILL ATTEND ON OCTOBER 29:

(please circle one)

Sunday 8:30

Sunday 9:45

Sunday 11:00



Have you ever wanted to be an acolyte? Have you wondered why they do the things they do? We invite children in third grade and up to attend an acolyte training session on Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30 until 7:30 in the Sanctuary. You will learn not only what you do, but why you do it. Those attending the training will be added to the list of acolytes to occasionally serve in the traditional services.



## **GO FISH**

Our Wonderful Wednesday children's programs will resume on Wednesday, October 20 with a program called Go Fish. We will find out how we can share the Word with other people to follow Jesus's call. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 until 7:30 on September 20, 27, October 4, 11, and 18. Part of this program will involve rock painting so dress with the possibility of getting messy.

## **WEDNESDAY – GRADE LEVEL STUDIES**

On Wednesday nights, November 1, 8, 15, and 29 we will host our "Grade Level Studies" program. Children will meet by grade level and study one component of our faith. These are the same each year so that children have the opportunity to attend each topic. Adult helpers are needed for each grade level.

- Kindergarten - BAPTISM - What is this water thing all about? They will learn about Jesus' baptism, the symbolism behind the sacrament, and make a baptism book about their own baptism or hopes.
- First Grade - THE LORD'S PRAYER - Learn what this prayer really means, how to sing it, how to say it in American Sign Language, and create it in your own words. Children will play games and do crafts to learn more about all types of prayer.
- Second Grade - HOLY COMMUNION - Read the Last Supper from three Gospels. Find out the background for this special meal and focus on communion as a gift to us from Jesus to help us remember Him.
- Third Grade - USING YOUR NEW BIBLE - Find out how to use your new Bible. Learn about the layout, make a bookmark, and learn some special verses to set you on a lifetime of reading God's Word.
- Fourth Grade - STEWARDSHIP - We aren't just talking about money! Find out how we are called to care for and use our time, talents, gifts, and service.
- Fifth Grade - THE APOSTLES' CREED - What do we believe? Learn this statement of faith and what it means as well as writing your own.



## **PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Our children ages 3 through first grade meet in traditional styled Sunday School classes throughout the school year from 9:45 until 10:45. They use a Cokesbury curriculum and feature different Bible stories each week through hands on activities. We are in need of assistant teachers for our first grade class. Please consider giving one month of Sundays to work with these great kids! There are teachers in place, but we are in need of assistants.

We would also like to consider splitting our PK class into a class for 3 year olds and a class for 4 year olds. In order to do this, we need two more teachers. Training, curriculum, and materials are provided. What a beautiful way to share Christ's love! It will be fun!

Please also consider signing up to be a substitute for our PK class, kindergarten class, or first grade class. Let Shannon Bolick know if you are willing to help with any of these classes.



## Nursery

Children are always welcome in worship at FUMC. We do have a professionally staffed nursery available on the lower level. Our child care workers are loving, consistent, and trained. They will provide you with a beeper with which to contact you should your child be inconsolable. You can also take advantage of our infant comfort room on the second floor for the contemporary services. From here, you can see and hear the service from a soundproof room with space for your child to move around and rocking chairs. We also have busy bags and children's bulletins to help those children in worship. Our nursery is available for other church functions as well. Childcare request forms need to be turned in a minimum of two weeks in advance.

### **TWO YEAR OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS POSSIBILITY**

We are looking for interested volunteers who would like to form a Sunday School class for two year olds. This would be for older nursery children who are ready for a little bit more structure and story components. This would be adjacent to the nursery so that children have the flexibility of going back and forth as needed. Please let Jillian Murray know if you or your child are interested.

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR FORMING**

Do you love to sing? Do you want to praise God with music while having fun with your friends and learning about music? We are forming a new Children's Choir for grades K - 5 which will blend both traditional and contemporary musical styles as well as chimes and will sing or play at various services throughout the year. The choir will meet on Wednesdays from 5:45 until 6:30 beginning on September 27. If you are interested, please see our Director of Music, David Kirven. We also need adult helpers!



We hope to have musical opportunities as well for our younger children with an angel choir. If you are interested in helping to get this underway, please contact David.



### **ADVENT ADVENTURE**

Children of all ages are invited to prepare your hearts and homes for the coming of Christ at our annual Advent Adventure on Wednesday, December 6 from 6:00 - 8:30. There will be lots of "make and take" stations for families to visit and create Christmas decorations and / or gifts. Bring your Advent wreath frame with you to cover in fresh greenery or order a new frame in advance.

### **UPWARD BASKETBALL**

Register now for UPWARD basketball at FUMC. Evaluation day is Saturday, November 18 between 8:00 and noon. Practices begin in January on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. Practices are one hour between 6:00 and 9:00. Games will be on Saturdays from January through March. For more information, contact Adam Sutton.

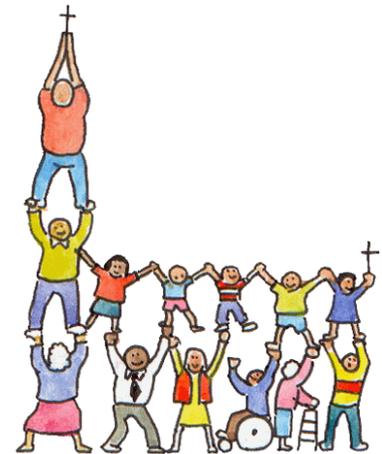


## ROTATION STATION

Children in grades 2 - 5 get the opportunity to live the stories of the Bible through hands on activities in what we call Rotation Station. We focus on one story or Biblical concept for five weeks. During that time, the children explore different aspects of the story each week as they participate in music, storytelling, science, media, games, art, and cooking. The children meet upstairs in the chapel for a gathering time led by the children's ministry director. Afterwards, they are led by their shepherd - an adult who has made the commitment to travel with them for as short a period as five weeks or as long a period as a year - to a workshop room. Each grade level visits a different workshop each week. These workshops are led by church members who share their love of the content area, the story, the children, Jesus, or all of the above. We are finding that the children are really learning the stories better and in more detail as well as having a lot of fun. It is truly fun for adults as well.

We need people to teach Rotation Station during the upcoming school year! We need almost 100 people to make Rotation Station happen each year. This is for ALL of our church family, not just parents of children. Materials and curriculum are provided. Workshop leaders plan one lesson and teach it four times to different children. Shepherds commit to five weeks and serve as a helper for the teachers and a friend to the children. **Please see which unit you are interested in helping with.** The units for the upcoming year are as follows:

- "Living God's Word - Friendship" - September 10 - October 8
- "Abraham and Sarah" - October 15 - November 19
- "Christmas Around the World" - November 26 - December 17
- "The Man Beside the Pool" - January 7 - February 4
- "Timothy, Eunice, and Lois" - February 11 - March 11
- "Easter: Peter's Story" - March 18 - April 22
- "Daniel in the Lion's Den" - April 29 - May 27



## CALENDAR

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|--|---|
| • September 3                                  | Blessing of the Backpacks                             |
| • September 10                                 | Ministry Expo / Promotion Sunday                      |
| • Wednesdays, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, and 18 | Go Fish Class 6:30 - 7:30                             |
| • Wednesday, September 18                      | Acolyte Training 6:30 - 7:30                          |
| • Wednesday, October 25                        | Traditional Children's Sabbath rehearsal 6:30 - 7:30  |
| • Saturday, October 28                         | Contemporary Children's Sabbath rehearsal 2:00 - 3:00 |
| • Sunday, October 29                           | Children's Sabbath                                    |
| • Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, and 29        | Grade Level Studies 6:30 - 7:30                       |
| • Saturday, November 18                        | UPWARD Basketball Evaluations 8:00 - 12:00            |
| • Wednesday, December 6                        | Advent Adventure                                      |
| • Thursday, December 24                        | Children's Christmas Eve Service                      |



**GIVE ME A CALL!** If you have any questions about FUMC's children's ministry programs or would like to help with programs, please contact Shannon Bolick. You can reach me by calling the church at 373-9021 ex. 110 or at home at 834-2264 or at [storyshan@hotmail.com](mailto:storyshan@hotmail.com).

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church  
Children's Christian Education Registration

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Location During Sunday School: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle One) Church Member    Visitor    Regularly Attend

List and allergies or special medical concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

List People who have permission to pick up your child: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to help? (Circle all that apply)

Rotation Workshop Leader

Rotation Shepherd

Primary Teacher

Primary Substitute

Junior Church

Grade Level Studies (Wed. nights)

KWP (Wed. nights)

FUMC Children's Photo Release

I, (parent's name) \_\_\_\_\_ give permission for my child  
(child's name) \_\_\_\_\_ 's photo and artwork to be used by  
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church in print materials, on the church website,  
or in displayed photographs. I understand that on the website, names will never  
be included with photos.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_