August 2018

***The Center of Our Faith***

**Our Calling**
The mission of Missouri UMC is to *“Connect All People to Jesus Christ…”* When I reflect on that mission, I think first and foremost of our calling to connect our own kids to the grace and love of God made known in Jesus. We are called to help our children know and understand God’s big story. And we are called to help them see the active role they can play in their life-long journey to connect with that big story by becoming more and more like Jesus.

That means that our ministry with children, our calling to pass along the faith to the next generation, is never optional or on the periphery…it’s at the center of who we are. Our ministry with children takes us to the very heart and core of our Christian faith.

**The Good News**
With our ministry with children in mind, I want to share some great, good news. This congregation has made a major investment in remodeling Whittler Treehouse. The project is finally completed, and the space has been totally updated with new flooring, new furnishings, colorful cabinetry, wall treatments, signage, etc. This area, dedicated to ministry with children now has a warm, welcoming, cohesive feel. Whittler Treehouse is inviting, safer and more fully functional than ever before. This is an exciting development for our Children’s Ministry.

In addition, we are utilizing some of the highest quality teaching materials available for Children. The “Think Orange” curriculum, widely considered to be the best available, engages kids in creative and interactive ways. The lessons are fully developed and easy to follow.

And the best news of all is that we have children who come to Sunday School each week – precious children who are ready and eager to learn about God’s love for them. Thankfully, the hallways around here are not silent. We have the energy, the voices, the excitement, the presence of children in our midst. They are a gift from God.

**The Challenge**
Quite simply, the challenge is this – we have an immediate and critical need for more adults who are willing to step forward to teach and guide these young children. If you are someone who has been seeking a place where your involvement and gifts can serve the mission of this church and the purposes of Christ, I want to suggest there’s no better place to connect in ministry. If you are parents who have children in Sunday School, we need you to make a commitment to lead a class of children or serve on a rotational basis as teachers. The need is great and the need is now!

**The Classes Offered**
Here are the classes currently offered during the 9:15am. Worship Service:

**Pre-K Class for ages 4 & 5.** This class meets in Whittler Hall, Rooms 103 and 104.

**Kindergarten — 2nd Grade Class.** This class meets in CLC rooms 102 and 104.

**3rd — 5th Grade Class.** This class meets in CLC 103.

**A Few Details To Keep in Mind**
The children will arrive in their classrooms after the Children’s Sermon, which allows about 45 minutes for the lesson.

The lesson plan for the week will be sent to you through E-mail at the beginning of the week. On Sunday, you will find all the materials prepared for you, along with a copy of the lesson plan. Again, the lessons are fun, interactive lessons that the kids can easily engage in.

The gifts you need to have to teach: loving hands and hearts and a willingness to offer yourself to this core ministry with our kids!

**How to Respond – Next Steps**
You can contact Linda Leist, our Children’s Ministry Coordinator, at linda@moumc.org, 816-565-1355, or call the church office – 573-443-3111 and ask for Linda. You can also call Pastor Fred @ 816-565-1377.