



KIDS CONNECTION

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Encourage Kids to Lovingly Obey

February brings lots of talk about love, but love is more evident through our actions than through our words. Children show love and respect by obeying parents, and Christians show love and respect by obeying God's commands. God gave us his laws because he loves us, and following them helps mold us into his faithful followers.

Love is at the "heart" of all God's commandments, including his two greatest: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).



The problem is that love and obedience aren't as easy as they sound. That's because we're all sinners who put ourselves ahead of others. Having a loving relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way we can be equipped to obey God and other people. Only through knowing Jesus and his love does the law lose its sin-causing power over us. Here are some ways to share that message with your children:

- While sharing that disobedience is serious and has consequences, also emphasize that God offers us his forgiveness—and we should do the same for other people who hurt us.
- As you read and discuss the Bible with children, reflect the bulk of Scripture: God's relationship with his people, who are constantly breaking his rules but then being restored by a loving God.

The Kids' Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments (Group) is filled with insightful, fun experiences about this topic.

Thou Shalt Remember

- In a survey of 1,000 children in Britain, 28% of kids ages 11 to 16 couldn't name even one of the Ten Commandments. Only 6% of children could name all 10. (Christian.org.uk)
- Americans didn't fare any better. Out of 1,000 Americans, more people knew the ingredients of a Big Mac and the names of the *Brady Bunch* children than knew the Ten Commandments. The most-recalled commandment was "You shall not kill." (ChristianPost.com)

PowerSource



Ask God:

1. To help your children express their love for God by obeying his commands.
2. To strengthen your children's trust in God's goodness.
3. To give your children obedient attitudes toward authority.

Parenting Insights

In *With All Their Heart*, Christine Yount Jones shares some of "the sweet rewards of saying yes to God" and lovingly obeying his commands.

1. **The result of obedience is joy.** Obeying God isn't a burden. Instead, it's uplifting to work in harmony with God rather than fight against him.
2. **Obedience brings a promise of blessings.** Although we don't obey just to gain God's favor, his Word promises blessings for our reverent obedience (for example, see Deuteronomy 11:13-15).
3. **Obedience demonstrates our love.** Convey to children that consequences aren't the sole point of rules. Instead, we should obey as a loving response to God, who loves us each unconditionally—and forgives us when we disobey.

Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming Jamila Barnes and Debra Voyles to the FUMC Nursery Staff.

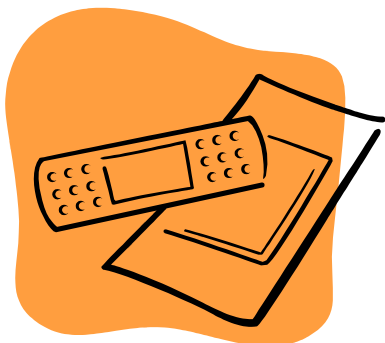


Younger Children's Sunday School

"[Jesus] healed everyone who was sick." Luke 9:11 CEV

The children will continue to learn that Jesus was the "Good News" as they learn about 4 different instances when Jesus healed the sick. The children will learn the story of Peter's mother-in-law, the four friends who did not give up, Jairus's daughter and the lepers.

During this month, remind your child that God always knows what we need and that we should always thank Him for our blessings.



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD**, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." **Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

Children's Chapel started back January 31st! Please bring your child to the Children's Chapel at 10 a.m. instead of taking them to their Sunday School Rooms. Pick up will be in the SS Rooms as normal.



Children's Special Offering

During the month of February, the children of FUMC will collect a special Sunday School offering to help mission efforts on the island of Haiti. United Methodists have had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti.

All money collected will be sent to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. 100% of all money collected and sent to UMCOR will be used in the relief effort in Haiti.

Please bring your extra dollars and change to Sunday School!





Youth Ministry FUNDRAISER

A NEW! To Benefit Summer Missions

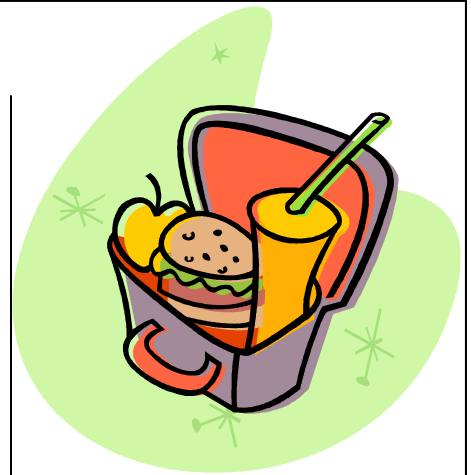
February 16, 2010
Wesley Hall
\$3.00 per person

Join us for a pancake feast and youth auction. Children's Ministry will have a Children's Craft corner. As this is a family oriented event, nursery is not provided.

Ash Wednesday

Please join us February 17, 2010 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary for a meaningful Ash Wednesday service.

Nursery is provided.



Older Children Sunday School

The next Rotation focuses on Acts 6:1-7. The students will learn that it takes a variety of people and talents to do God's work and that each of us plays an important role in serving others.

This Rotation will be very mission based. We will put together Health Kits for UMCOR use in Haiti, we'll make hand puppets for the Children's Hospital in Jackson and have speakers come from The Salvation Army. In addition to hearing about the work of The Salvation Army, we'll make sandwiches and treats for their Sunday night meal.

“Created by God”
February 18 – 20, 2010
FUMC Coffee House

Mark your Calendar!



February 16.....Shrove Tuesday
February 17.....Ash Wednesday
February 18, 19, 20.....Created by God
March 14.....Daylight Savings time begins
March 28.....Palm Sunday
April 4.....Easter Sunday

“Created by God” is a curriculum written under the direction of General Board of Discipleship for The United Methodist Church for use with fifth and sixth graders. It presents the information and affirmation with honesty and compassion, while emphasizing a healthy biblical and Christian perspective of human sexuality, relationships and values. This is the 18th time we’ve offered this event and it continues to provide parents and students with valuable resources to help develop healthy attitudes about themselves and their sexuality through this stage of life.

Please contact the church office to register or call Kristen with any questions.

Upcoming Events



Easter Celebration
March 27, 2010

Make your plans to join us for the FUMC Annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt! More information will be available soon!

Vacation Bible School



June 14-18, 2010

Have experience with aquariums? Know anything about keeping fish? Well, Children’s Ministry needs your help! We have a wonderful aquarium that was donated but lack sufficient knowledge to get it running properly, keep it stock and keep it healthy and entertaining! Please contact Toni Denton or Kristen Wilkins if you are willing to help us get our aquarium in working order!

