



KIDS CONNECTION

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2010

Guide Children's Media Choices

With the explosion of technology now available, it seems like children are always plugged in, zoned out, or wired for sound. They spend less time outside, have shorter attention spans, and are exposed to online dangers such as pornography. On the positive side, technology has expanded children's knowledge and opportunities. They learn teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. Technology has also boosted activism among today's young people.

Although children may seem like "experts" when it comes to technology and new media, parents are still responsible for supervising what their kids are exposed to—and for how long. Two keys are moderation and interaction. These tips can help you limit and monitor what your kids see and hear:



Strategically set up your equipment and schedules. Keep televisions out of children's bedrooms, and place the computer in an accessible family area. Make media time contingent on the completion of chores and homework. Plan alternate activities, including physical ones.

Establish digital-free zones. Agree on days and times (such as dinner, family night, Sundays, etc.) when no one—including adults—is allowed to check e-mail or use any form of media.

Watch and listen to TV shows, movies, and music together. Talk about the issues that come up. Tie them into faith and provide a biblical worldview for children to consider as they use technology.

What's Up in Our Wired World?

- The average young American spends nearly every waking minute in front of an electronic device. Kids ages 8 to 18 spend more than 7.5 hours a day using computers or smart phones or watching TV. And because they multitask, they pack almost 11 hours of media content into that time. (Kaiser Family Foundation)
- 87% of parents play video games with their kids at least occasionally. (Yahoo! Shine)
- 20% of young people admit they've engaged in "sexting"—emailing or receiving nude photos or videos. (Associated Press-MTV)

PowerSource



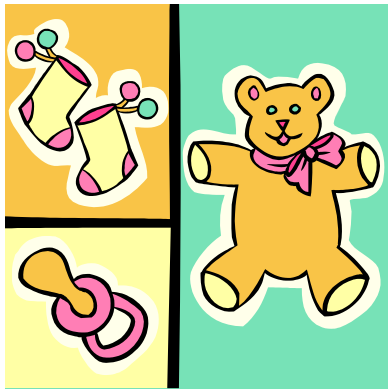
Ask God:

1. For wisdom as you oversee your children's media "diet."
2. To help your kids make good decisions about technology.
3. To show you ways to use technology in positive, family-building ways.

Parenting Insights

In *Children's Ministry Magazine*, online expert Tracy Carpenter explores some ways that technology is impacting young hearts and minds.

1. **Shifting relationships—** Although kids still belong to social groups, the emphasis is no longer on face-to-face gatherings. Preteens, wired for relationships, now think in terms of their "audience" rather than their peer group.
2. **Trying on identities—** Children express their developing personalities through social-networking sites and online role-playing. Preteens, emulating "cool," may try to outdo one another with suggestive images.
3. **Providing "TMI"—** Young people still forming judgment and boundaries are sharing too much private information in very public ways.



Nursery News

Parents please help us by labeling all items that you bring to the nursery such as bags, bottles, pacifiers, etc. Also, please do not let your child bring toys to the nursery. This is a safety issue. Thank you

Children's Special Offering

During the month of February, the children of FUMC collected 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.

The children collected \$101.55! 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.



"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. Children are brought to the Chapel before Sunday school. We've had some surprises in the Children's Chapel in the last few weeks. One Sunday, some of our fathers (Michael Herman, Jim Denton, Joe Babbs) and some of the children acted out the story of the four friends that brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed. The kids really enjoyed watching this. On Sunday, February 28th, Abby Condit came and played the violin for us. The children loved singing along with her music. You just never know what surprises are in store for the children in the Children's Chapel. I know your child won't want to miss it!



.Younger Children's Sunday School

During the month of March, children ages 2 through Kindergarten will learn about Jesus and the Money Changers, Jesus and the Last Supper, Jesus in the garden and the triumphal entry of Jesus riding into Jerusalem as we get ready for Easter.

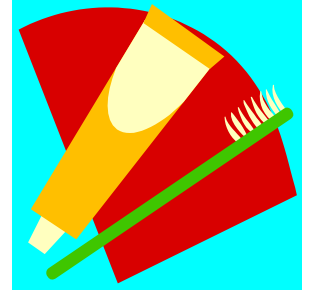
During this month, remind your child that God is always with us, giving us love and comfort.



Older Children's Sunday School

We are so blessed to have such wonderful Sunday school teachers for all the children. Thank you all for all your work with our precious children!!

Children in grades 1st through 5th are currently learning about being helpers. The lesson comes from Acts 6:1-7 when the disciples directed the believers to choose 7 wise men who were filled with the Holy Spirit to do the important work of tending to others. This Rotation has been very hands-on and mission focused. The students have made over 100 PB&J sandwiches and Rice Krispie treats which they've put together Health kits which will be sent to Haiti and created hand puppets which will be sent to the Blair E. Baston Hospital for Children in Jackson, MS. This Rotation continues through March 7. A special thank you to Christine Rayburn for donating toothbrushes for the Health Kits, to Sally's Beauty Supply for the wonderful prices they gave us for the Health kit supplies and to Lee Caldwell, Tom Wicker and Susan Gilbert from the Salvation Army for coming to speak to the children about the work of SA in our community. Our children have learned several ways that we, as a church, help others and they learned that they can be a part of the work of the church.



Our next Rotation begins March 14th and we will be focusing on the 23rd Psalm.



6th grade Small Group

The 6th grade Small Group has been very busy since they started meeting. The group is led by Ms. Kristen and Mr. Wes and they've explored many areas. They've talked about the different names for God, about how difficult it can be to hear God in our busy world and about choosing to be a Christian. We've also been very hands on and have touched many lives. They adopted an angel off the Salvation Army tree and provided a

great Christmas to a needy child, had a "Souper Bowl" party, complete with t-shirts and made soup for FUMC homebound, for Congregational Care and the Salvation Army. They recently went to Jackson MS on a Mission trip where they attended a Christian concert, did yard work for the Bethlehem Center, a Methodist supported inner-city day care and enjoyed some fun together at GattiTown. Their next projects will be making cookies for Hill Top and making casseroles for the less fortunate in our community. The 6th grade Small Group is open to any FUMC 6th grader and we meet from 6-7:30 pm on Sunday nights in the 6th grade Sunday School Room.



**Children Council Meeting
Sunday, March 7th at 2 p.m.
in the Gathering Room.**

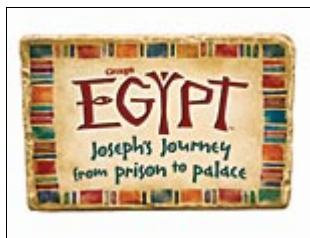
The Children's Council is open to all parents of FUMC children. Our main topics of discussion will be the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School. Please contact Toni Denton or Kristen Wilkins if you have any questions.



Vacation Bible School

June 14-18, 2010

Join us as we go on a Holy Land Adventure and we learn about Joseph's journey from prison to palace. Everyone gets to explore firsthand the culture of Joseph's world. They'll experience the heart breaking trials, the joyous victories and the tear filled celebration of this unique Bible hero.



Mark your calendars!

March 7... *Children's Council meeting 2 pm Gathering Room*
March 14... *Daylight Savings time begins*
March 14... *6th grade Small group will NOT meet*
March 15-19... *Spring Break!*
March 20... *First day of Spring*
March 27... *Easter Egg Hunt*
March 28... *Palm Sunday*

For the 18th time, "Created by God" was offered at FUMC and we were fortunate to have Mrs. Nancy Ball come back to lead this valuable seminar. A special thanks for Rosemary Dillard, Allison Spencer, Phillip Gough and Corey Truett for their commitment to our children as Small Group leaders. The children of FUMC are surrounded by such an amazing group of adults in all areas of our wonderful church.

Looking for something fun for your children during Spring Break? HealthWorks™ has a variety of fun, educational day camps for children ages 6-12. For more information, call 377-KIDS (5437) or visit online at www.healthworkskids.org.