

AFUMC Weekday Preschool Newsletter

February 2023

Mrs. Kay's Corner

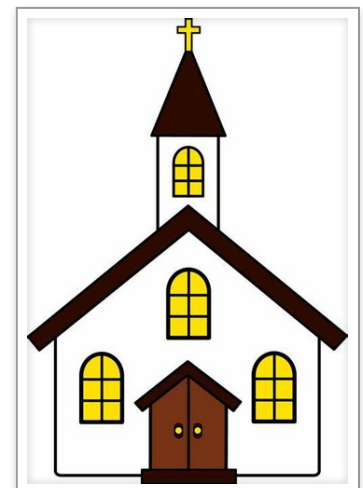
Hi everyone,

We are back to our routines at AFUMC Weekday Preschool. This is such a good stretch of learning and growth during the preschool year. The children are building confidence in some new found abilities and are eager to try out new learning experiences in their classrooms and with their friends. It's fun to watch them try new things in new ways. I love hearing their stories and conversations especially during arrival time as they come through the Galleria.

There is a lot of information to share this month. Please take a few minutes to read our newsletter and add the upcoming dates and events to your calendar. Please note the change in the school calendar as a result of a change to the AFUMC church calendar. As always, thank you for trusting your children to us. We love them more than you know!

This Month in Chapel

God's message of love is found all throughout the Bible and is a message to remember every day. In the month of February, when love is in the air, our chapel theme this month is "Jesus loves all people." Our verse is from 1 John 4:7, "Let us love one another." We will learn that God tells us He loves us in the Bible and that the Bible is God's love letter to us. It teaches us what love looks like, sounds like, and acts like. We will play Hearts Hide and Seek one week and learn the Love Jump dance another. Our take-away this month is God loves us and we love each other.



Here are several books we will enjoy in Chapel that you may want to add to your collection at home.

Guess How Much I Love You (by Sam McBratney) Little Nutbrown Hare and his daddy learn that love is hard to measure.

I Love You, Too! (By Eve Bunting) Baby animal friends find special presents to show their love for their mothers.

One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike than Different (by Linsey Davis) God made us unique in many ways, giving us so many reasons to love each other.



Registration for the 2023-24 School Year

Registration for the 2023-24 school year is open for currently enrolled preschool and AFUMC families. Registration will open to the public on Monday, February 6. We are excited to have had such a great response in the first week of registration, with many families and siblings returning to AFUMC Weekday Preschool in the fall. Classes are filling quickly so be sure to be sure to reserve your spot if you plan to return.

<https://athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschoolregistration/weekday-preschool-registration/>

Happy Feet!

Hello from Happy Feet! It's been awhile since my last update, and we've done so much moving and grooving; it's been an absolute blast!

How do you follow all of the Nutcracker fun we had in December? With New Year celebrations and snow dances, of course! This month we: played parachute "Keepy Uppy", used our imaginations and turned scarves into snowflakes, leaped and hopped over hoops, and even learned a snow dance to call the snow (if only Mother Nature would listen.) Even the littlest learners of AFUMC Preschool have joined in the fun this month! We started every class with the ever-popular "Shake Your Hands" song, which had everyone laughing and giggling by the end. To end, we practiced calming our hearts by taking deep breaths while listening to "Breathe." You can check out these tunes and the rest of January's music at the bottom of this playlist: <https://spoti.fi/3zkM4bw>

So what's up next? To celebrate love and friendship in February, we will be learning all sorts of partner dances and games! We will start with simple hand clapping games, practice moving through hula hoops, and our older friends will even learn some line dancing. February is bound to be full of fun!

Keep those happy feet moving!



February Lunch Bunch News

It has been a BLAST having new friends join us for Lunch Bunch! As soon as your child is three years old, TOTALLY potty trained, and self-sufficient, we would be thrilled for your child to join us. We do not have the facilities for pull-ups or diapers for this hour of our day. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch Bunch meets daily from 12:00-1:00!

A monthly calendar is sent home with each child the middle of the month for the following month. All you do is chose the days you would like to have your child stay and you return it to school. Be sure to make a copy for yourselves. We typically have Staff Meetings on the first Wednesday of each month so it isn't offered that day. If we have school holidays or class parties, we will not offer LB that day. These days will be clearly marked on the calendar sent home.

Just a few quick reminders:

1. Nut-free zone! Please send a note if it is sun-butter, etc. so we are sure it's not peanut butter. Thank you! It's so hard to tell sometimes.
2. Please use ice packs to keep lunches fresh. We don't have a refrigerator for lunch boxes.
3. Dress your child in clothes that are easy for THEM to go potty! No one piece jumpers or button pants, please. Elastic works best for our newest friends.
4. Pick up is NO LATER THAN 1:00. There is a Late Fee charge of \$2 per minute after 1:00.
5. Be sure to update any carpool changes in writing.
6. There is NO refund for sick days as I have hired staff to cover our numbers for that day. We will reimburse or let you pick another day if we close due to inclement weather.

On these very cold and breezy days, we most likely will be inside playing in the gym. Please give yourself time to park and walk inside to sign your child out. Be sure to let your sitters, nannies, and grandparents know this as well.

Thank you so much for your support for Lunch Bunch! We love giving you that extra hour! ❤️

Mrs. Libby

5 Day 3's Lead Teacher

Lunch Bunch Coordinator

lhc43@yahoo.com

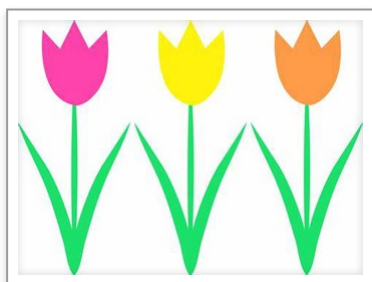
(706)540-9827

Save the Date! Spring Pictures

Spring Pictures with Classic City Portraits are scheduled for March 14 and 15. This round of school pictures will include both individual and class pictures. More details and information will be shared closer to these dates.



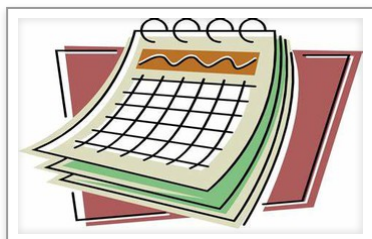
PreK families, stay tuned...we are working on something special for you. Fingers crossed!



Coming Soon! Spring Program

The Weekday Preschool Spring Program is making a return this year! It will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 11:15 AM. More information to come.

Children in our 3-day and 5-day 2-year-old classes, our 3-year-old classes and our PreK classes will participate. We can't wait to share the music and fun with you!



Calendar Change - Monday, April 10

AFUMC offices will be closed on Monday, April 10. ***This is a change to the church calendar.***

As such, the Weekday Preschool will also be **closed for students and staff** on Monday, April 10. The preschool will reopen on Tuesday, April 11.

Spring Soccer Registration | Ages 3 - 9

Children ages three through nine are invited to join us this spring for our Children's Soccer League. Teams will be co-ed and divided by age, and if you are interested in coaching a team, please reach out to Cory Scott at cory@athensfirstumc.org. The season will kick off the week of February 28, 2023, with our soccer skills clinics which will allow participants equal opportunity to become familiar with the skills of the game. Practices will be held throughout the week, and games will be held on Saturdays at Chapelwood United Methodist Church. The cost for the season is \$75, and registration is currently open. We look forward to having you join us this season!



2023 Soccer Schedule:

Clinics: February 27 & 28, March 2

Practices: Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, Beginning March 6

Games: March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1, April 15, April 22

**There will be no practices or games during Holy Week (April 3-9)*

Cory Scott, Director of Recreation Ministry | cory@athensfirstumc.org

Link: <https://athensfirstumc.org/recreation/childrens-soccer/>

Important Dates

January 23 Registration for the 2023-24 School Year begins for currently enrolled families

January 30 Registration for the 2023-24 School Year begins for AFUMC members

February 1 Tuition due

February 6 Registration for the 2023-24 School Year begins for the general public

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 20 Holiday for Students and Staff (Preschool CLOSED)