

Special Note: Mount Pleasant UMC and the Children's Ministry Initiative, which serves the Korean United Methodist churches in the United States, were both featured in the latest publication of **UNITED METHODIST NOW: INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIVING**. The following article, written by *Crystal Caviness* from United Methodist Communications, was published July 29, 2020. Thank you Cheryl Lowe for posting VBS photos on Facebook that led to UMC National Communications Office discovering our Drive-Thru VBS this year. *What an honor for Mount Pleasant to be featured!*

Summer is Synonymous with Vacation Bible School (VBS). But VBS, Pandemic Style, requires pairing Safety with Creativity. Take a Look at How Some United Methodist Churches are Adapting.



Mount Pleasant UMC offers a drive-thru VBS during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photos courtesy of Mount Pleasant UMC



Families drive through to pick up VBS supplies and dinner.

according to Martha Hallquist, children's minister at Mount Pleasant UMC, includes a scripture/story page, family devotion page, game page, challenge of the week, song for the week, and a bonus page such as a family skit, all packaged in a large envelope. Each child also gets a craft bag. About 100-120 meals go to family members each week along with VBS materials and crafts for the children.



"I appreciated that Martha, the children's minister, worked to find a way that we could still have that experience of reliving the Bible school stories that help shape your life, in this coronavirus atmosphere," Cheryl Lowe commented. She and her husband, the Rev. Vance Lowe, a retired United Methodist pastor, did the VBS activities with four of their grandchildren.

Once at home, families enjoy activities from the VBS packets. Pictured: The Rongitsch family participate in VBS arts & crafts.

At the Children's Ministry Initiative (CMI), staff created VBS curriculum to serve the Korean United Methodist churches in the United States. With the 2020 theme of "Rocky Railroad: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through," churches and families receive stories, songs, crafts and snack ideas. Churches may customize their VBS experience and order packets to hand out to its members or participate online through the VBS portal. At the VBS portal, interactive videos demonstrate how to make themed snacks, guide sing-a-longs with words onscreen, and provide step-by-step instructions for crafts.

"The churches who are using our resources range from churches with five children to large size UMC churches with over 250 children," says the Rev. Tarah Lee of the Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington. *"As of today, we have 78 churches involved, churches all across the U.S. from Hawaii to Seattle to Denver to Oklahoma, to Alabama and Michigan. We also have Korean congregations from various denominations in the U.S. taking part, including Korean Baptist Church, Korean Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Korean Community Church, and even a church in South Korea."* The CMI, KUMC of Greater Washington and Korean United Methodist Church of Detroit also sponsored churches and families who could not afford VBS packets. *"It has been such a blessing to work together,"* Lee comments, *"but, most of all, to help churches bring God's Word during this time of uncertainty and isolation."*



***This story was published July 29, 2020, in
UNITED METHODIST NOW: INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIVING,
Written by Crystal Caviness, Senior Content Development Specialist,
United Methodist Communications at UMC.org***

You may subscribe to this free online newsletter published by the United Methodist Church by contacting: United Methodist Now: Inspiration for Daily Living, umc.org.

Thank You to All Who Have Helped & Supported Mount Pleasant's VBS 2020—Listening For God



More Photos Coming in Mount Pleasant's Next Newsletter