The Weekday

 Messenger

### Weekday Ministries

Child Care Center

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Director

February 2016

**Family Therapy**

**What Is Love?**

Winter may be brown or white, but a family can still go outside and have some fun. Mud washes off. Runny noses are good for little ones with congestion. And the world looks wide open when the leaves are off the trees.

Head out to Raccoon Creek State Park, Boyce-Mayview, Peters Lake Park or Wingfield Pines. All feature ponds or running streams. Sometimes there are even waterfalls! There are giant trees around these suburban parks, and plenty of critters come out and play.

Want to stay in? Try a simple old-fashioned favorite board game like Candy Land, Trouble or checkers. Board games are great for social skills, developing patience and brain power.

Other activities include geoboards and play dough. You can make your own! Geoboards can be made from a wooden board and nails hammered into a grid pattern. Rubber bands are used to make patterns. This is helpful for mathematical thinking and fine motor skills.

Turn off the television and turn on some mood-setting music. Then, cook something as a family, work on crafts or spend time reading together.

Here is the best play dough recipe we have ever used.

Combine 2 c. flour, 2 T. vegetable oil, 1 tsp. cream of tartar, 2 c. cold water and 1 c. salt in a saucepan until smooth. Turn on the heat and stir constantly until a ball forms. Cool slightly and add food colors.

St. Valentine’s Day is coming! There will be flowers, candy and kisses. It’s a great little holiday!

Like other first graders, when I was a child, we exchanged Valentines. Our mothers made sure we had one for every kid in the class. But the year I was in first grade, I was dumbfounded when Richard Settani placed a huge box of candy on my desk. All the children teased me, but I felt special nonetheless. Then, I did what any other little girl might do. I chased Richard around the playground at recess trying to kiss him. I actually caught him on the ear, as I recall. Very romantic!

When one is young, love is very simple. It is defined as a good feeling of affection for someone else. Children love their parents, their pets and even their stuffed animals!

Love like this is appropriate for children! It is innocent and sweet. I believe it is how God wants His little children to feel. It breaks His heart when they are betrayed by people who shatter their tender hearts.

The Bible also talks about other kinds of love, including the love we hear about during Lent, which begins on February 10 - Ash Wednesday.

This love is sacrificial. To give something up to help someone else even if that person doesn’t appreciate it or even if it hurts: that’s sacrifice and that’s love. *The Message* paraphrase Bible by Eugene Peterson puts Romans 5:8 this way.

*But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.*

A more traditional version of Romans 5:8 (NRSV) says it this way.

*8But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

Is it impossible in our own strength to feel loving towards everyone! But, with God’s Holy Spirit, it is not impossible to act in ways that show love, kindness and respect. This is what it means to grow up and behave as mature Christians.

Valentine’s Day is fun, but Lent is a great time to learn what love really means!



**God Says**

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Luke 6:35

# Special Dates

3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-5790

Is Christianity about suffocating us in rules and regulation? Not at all says St. Paul.

***It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.***Galatians 5:1-2

# Classroom Highlights

Infant room space is unavailable for the rest of the year. If you are pregnant, please see Mettelise as soon as possible in your pregnancy to be placed on a waiting list.

Supertots are excited about kisses, hugs, hearts and Jesus. It is all about love this month! While they’re learning about hearts, however, they are also learning that animals and people have hearts that beat.

Tiny Tots are using the Valentine theme to develop their sharing skills. They will be exploring nursery rhymes. They will learn about ice, snow and wind.

Older Toddlers learn that Jesus grew and we grow too. They are making observations about things growing bigger. They will learn about groundhogs, presidents and Mother Goose rhymes.

Preschoolers are big kids, so they will be investigating groundhogs, finding ways to love their parents, learning about presidents, Chinese New Year and how Jesus grew up. They will also start looking at Jesus’ ministry because Lent begins this month.

All classes will be observing St. Valentine’s Day in some way. Please check with your child’s teacher to see how they are planning their activities.

Please see our website. The Health Form and Parent Handbook are posted there. [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org).

**February**

10th Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

14th St. Valentine’s Day

15th President’s Day (Center Closed)



Children: Abram 2 years 2/4

 Charlie 2 years 2/10

Teachers: Miss Cathy 2/18

**Weather Delays**

**Please note: Weather can cause water main breaks, power outages, ice or snow. We might delay or close.**

It is your responsibility to check the three local TV networks or their websites for information about our center. We will be listed as *MLUMC Weekday Ministries* or *Mt. Lebanon Weekday Ministries*.

**MLUMC Corner**

Come to church! Sunday services are at 8:30 am and 10:45 am. Sunday School is at 9:30 am.

You are invited to Terrific Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. First, there’s dinner! At 6:30 PM there are programs for everyone, including children’s choir at 6:45 PM. The evening ends at 7:30 PM.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. You are invited to drop in anytime between 6:30 am and 10:00 am for quiet, meditative communion. Or, attend the service in the evening at 7:00.



## Important Reminders

* You must pay your tuition by the 15th as you contracted in the Agreement Form you signed.
* A tax receipt for 2015 was placed in your child’s cubby.
* We will call you and send your child home with fever, vomiting or diarrhea.
* Use the door code and pass it along to authorized caregivers. Do not open for strangers!