



THE WEEKDAY MESSENGER



**Weekday Ministries
Child Care Center**

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Director

Enjoying God's World **July 2018** New & Improved

My friends think I am a little weird for enjoying tent camping. I admit that if I won the lottery I might consider a Sprinter (Mercedes) van conversion, but since I have never played, I will never win, and I must be happy with my Eureka Sunrise.

The older I get, the more I long for what God has made! The best way I know to enjoy His beautiful creation is to unplug and go to the mountains where creeks play music, the air is free from pollen and simple food tastes like gourmet.

Research repeatedly demonstrates that interaction with nature is essential to good mental health. We cannot just look at it from a car window. We need to smell it, hear it, feel it and taste it.

Research also suggests that children are not being fed. They do not get enough time outdoors in unstructured play. What a shame since we are blessed with many natural areas close by that can fill this need.

Upper St. Clair: Wingfield Pines boasts ponds, Chartiers Creek and woods. Redwing blackbirds fly in abundance there. Boyce-Mayview Park can be entered at two locations. Miles of winding, looping trails take you past ponds, streams and forest.

Peters Township: Peters Lake Park can also be accessed at two locations. It is a very quiet oasis of a lake with a trail winding around it through mixed woods. Average time to hike: 40 min. The lake is even great in winter as ice fishing and ducks take over the frozen area.

Raccoon Creek State Park in Beaver County **not only has** a swimming beach and miles of trails, but the **Wildflower Preserve** boasts over 600 species of flowering plants.

Explore Quebec Run Wild Area at Forbes State Forest in Farmington - on the other side of Uniontown - Rte. 40. There are over 7,400 acres of undeveloped forest to explore.

Pack your water bottle, turn off the phone and enjoy the beautiful natural world God created for our good!

The number of children with a stay-at-home parent is dwindling while the need for daycare services is increasing. It makes sense to change our program.

When we began registration for this fall, almost all registrations were from our daycare families. There were just three children for the Transition Class which serves five-year-olds.

To date, there have not been any inquiries from the general public about fall preschool - not one call or email.

It makes sense to put our efforts into making our preschool program even better than before.

The response from parents, church members and teachers to this news has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Junior Pre-K class (mainly three's) will be led by Natalie Thomas. She did a splendid job during Miss Annie's maternity leave with Older Toddlers. Her degree in education and her experience with elementary school, special education and child care will be an asset to the team effort! Her first official day with the children will be September 4th. She will be working from 8:00 am to 2:00 PM.

The Senior Pre-K Class will be led by Beth Brack and assisted by Carol Flaherty. Beth will be present from 8:00 am to 2:00 PM. She is already planning ways to tackle a four-year-old and "T" class curriculum.

The current preschool staff will remain. They will be working as a team to provide care and activities all day. The children will be assigned to their new rooms by September. In the meantime, there will be some grouping but because of vacations, the groups will be vary from day to day as needed.

Special "back-to-school" activities to kick off the school year are being planned. Stay tuned!

God Says

In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth. (Genesis 1:1)

Classroom Highlights

The Infant Room does not have an opening until September of 2019, but we do not know exactly when because the infants that will be occupying these spots have not yet been born.

The Supertots are learning about the ocean that God created with all sorts of interesting creatures. They are learning about the beach.

Tiny Tots are learning about their country...America! They are also learning about the sun, moon and stars, different kinds of balls used in sports, ice cream and characteristics of summer.

Older Toddlers are learning about the beach, ocean, animals that God created to live under water, Independence Day and National Ice Cream Day. There will be a special snack of ice-cream on Monday, the 15th.

Pre-K children (note the new terminology) will be continuing to care for their container garden on the patio. Let them show you the tomatoes, parsley, basil, oregano and mint they are growing. They are going to the green park across the street as often as they can. They are learning about America's birthday, the ocean and ice-cream!

Important Reminders

1. Everything must be labeled!
2. We must send children home with fever, diarrhea, unexplained rashes or vomiting.
3. Tuition checks must be made out to MLUMC and are **due by the 15th of the month**. Automatic withdrawals are available from checking, savings or credit card accounts. See the director for an authorization form.
4. We close at 6:00 PM and will charge you late fees after that.
5. Visit www.mlumc.org and click on "Child Care Center" for the Parent Handbook, tuition fees and Child Health Report form required for well-child checkups.

Special Dates

July

4th CLOSED for Independence Day



Children:	Chrissy H.	7/4	4 years
	Hudson S.	7/14	1 year
	Liam P.	7/18	3 years
	Jude A.	7/20	2 years
Teachers:	Carol M.	7/6	
	Karen P.	7/11	
	Amanda S.	7/16	
	Kim R.	7/18	
	Annie N.	7/18	



Reverend Tom Strandburg, Pastor

Vacation Bible School for children 4 years through 5th grade will be held 7/30 - 8/3. Register with paper or online. www.mlumc.org.

Don't miss it!