



**Weekday Ministries**  
Child Care Center

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Director

# October 2019

## We Need Your Help

Have you wondered why there is a lack of childcare in the South Hills? It comes down to over-regulation.

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is the licensing agency responsible for new regulations which, if left unchallenged, will take effect in 2020.

In 2016, the state reported that out of 5,341 substantiated perpetrators of abuse, only 41 were childcare center employees or volunteers. Presumably, those 41 people had their clearances. So what is to be gained from adding new regulations?

- Anyone living out of state in the past 5 years must obtain clearances from that state before obtaining four from Pennsylvania. (They have added the National Sex Abuse Registry Clearance recently.)
- All clearances must be received before an employee can start. Previously, an employee would apply for clearances and work under supervision. The criminal background check is instant. A record would be immediately apparent. The Child Abuse Clearance takes a month. Can a new employee wait? Can we? How much overtime must we pay while we wait? Do we have the staff to cover kids or do we operate illegally? Do we close because we do not have enough staff?
- In 2008, we were told the FBI clearance would take care of interstate background checks. What's changed?
- We can no longer accept FBI clearances teachers obtain through the Dept. of Education. Why aren't they the same?
- Clearances are expensive. A prospective employee would need to pay \$60 before earning a paycheck month later. Is this realistic?
- Clearances for volunteers are free and they cannot be used for employment. Aren't they the same clearances?
- We cannot compete with Target, Whole Foods and PNC paying \$15/hour. With a low unemployment rate, we are lucky to get a handful of applicants when we advertise.

Please spread the word through social media! Contact OCDEL and your state representative! This can be reversed with input from those of us who depend upon childcare centers. Thank you for your help.

## Changing Seasons

A recent major water main break led to the closing of several schools and businesses, including our childcare center. Thanks to Heather Lasser, Andrew's mom, who contacted me through REMIND. She messaged me before 6:15 am, which gave me a chance to send a message to you through the app. One of our teachers did not receive the message. Once she uninstalled the app and re-installed it, she was good to go.

Now that we are in the autumn season, we once again mention that weather delays or cancellations may not be far off. You can do one of two things.

- Go to KDKA, WPXI or WTAE television, or their websites, to see the list of delays or cancellations. However, they did not post the cancellation caused by the water main break.
- The better option is REMIND. From your smart phone go to [www.rmd.at/missmette](http://www.rmd.at/missmette). You will sign up and download the app. Our class code is missmette. The class is called Weekday Ministries. This app will only be used to announce *emergencies*. If you signed up last year, you should be fine.

Please call and tell us if your child will be absent, especially if absent due to illness. We need to know if there are communicable diseases spreading throughout the center.



The state requires that children receive flu shots. Please send in an updated immunization form showing the date it was administered.

## God Says

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

## Classroom Highlights

Do you patronize Shop & Save? Even if you shop occasionally, go online and sign up for the SEED program. The program has deleted old records, so you will need to sign up again. Go to [www.shopnsavefood.com](http://www.shopnsavefood.com). Choose the "community" tab and then the SEED program. Please choose our school, Weekday Ministries/Mt. Lebanon - School ID # 129. We have been able to schedule free programs with the Carnegie Science Center and the Pittsburgh Zoo because of parent participation. Thank you!

The Infant Room is booked until November 2020. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, wear your Halloween onesie or T-shirt. The babies are creating special gifts for the parents.

Supertots are excited about the Pens home opener on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; how pumpkins grow; dressing up on Halloween and Columbus Day. Please send your child's costume in a bag for dress up on the 31<sup>st</sup>. They learn that Jesus grew and so do they.

Tiny Tots are learning that Jesus welcomes and loves all children. They are sharing and caring as they celebrate harvest themes, friendly ghosts and pumpkins. Pack your child's costume for our celebration on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Older Toddlers are learning about fall, leaves, pumpkins, Jesus Loves Me, Columbus Day and Halloween. They will see the fire truck on the 10<sup>th</sup>. They are having a costume show 'n tell on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please pack your child's costume in a bag.

Jr. Pre-K will be having a picnic on the 4<sup>th</sup> and special spooky lunch on the 31<sup>st</sup>. They join the Sr. Pre-K class to see the firetruck on the 10<sup>th</sup>. They are learning letters A, B & C. They're making ghost rockets, growing a pumpkin and graphing.

Sr. Pre-K is learning about fire safety, animals, Noah's Ark and Halloween. They continue to practice writing, and will work on the letters C, D & E. The Dormont fire department will be here on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a field trip by school bus to Bednar's Greenhouse in Cecil on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Special Dates

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

### October

No Closures

10<sup>th</sup> Older Toddlers & both Pre-K classes: Dormont Fire Dept. brings a fire engine and teaches fire safety!

17<sup>th</sup> Sr. Pre-K only. Bus trip to Bednar's in Cecil Twp. Be ready to board the bus by 9:00 am.



Children:	Brody T.	2 years	10/9
	Micah W.	5 years	10/23
	Evelyn S.	2 years	10/23
Teacher:	Miss Erin		10/26



United  
Methodist  
Church

### MLUMC Corner

Reverend Tom Strandburg, Pastor

You are invited to the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00. There will be loads of activities for your entire family!