

## Church School Newsletter Fall 2017

Welcome to a new year of Church School at Vincent United Methodist Church! We are looking forward to another exciting year of fun learning about God's love for us in Jesus! As the Superintendent of Sunday School I want to welcome you and your child(ren). Thanks to several people who have stepped up to help out we are getting ready to roll on another successful year. There is plenty of information below on some of the things you and your family will want to know. We hope to see you on **Rally Day on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** and all year long!

Faithfully yours,  
*Michael Blanchard,*  
Superintendent of Sunday School

### Classes for This Year

The breakdown of the classes for this year is all sorted out. We will have a Pre-K (ages 2, 3, and 4), Early Elementary (ages 5 and 6) and Middle Elementary (2nd through 3rd grade), Older Elementary (4th through 5th grade), and Youth classes (6th grade through High School grades). Teachers and aides are always needed. **Contact Michael Blanchard at [mblancha23@gmail.com](mailto:mblancha23@gmail.com) or 862-202-7463 if you would be willing to pitch in. We appreciate all the extra help and support. You do not have to have children in Sunday School in order to help out. We appreciate all that are interested.**

### Church School Curriculum - "Deep Blue Kids!"

We have been using the curriculum called "Deep Blue Kids". *Deep Blue Kids* is the new awe-inspiring Teaching and Learning resource for children, which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games. They are all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today. Check it out at <http://www.deepbluekids.com/>

### Faithful Attendance Awards

At the end of the year, we give out Faithful Attendance Awards to those students who have been regular in their Church School attendance. The award is the standard United Methodist pin for the first year and year bars for each succeeding year. We had twenty-five students receive pins last Spring and hope to give out more this year! To receive this award, a student needs to be in attendance at least 80% of the year. Here are the specifics:

- Students can miss no more than 8 Sundays.
- If a student is away, they will receive attendance credit if they bring a bulletin from that church, a note from the teacher in that Church School, or a note from their Scout leader if they are on a Scout outing and have a worship service.

We hope to give out lots of awards in May, so let's do our best!

### Offering

Mission is an important aspect of our Christian lives and we hope you will support this. Each week an offering will be taken in the classrooms and periodic updates will be given on our progress. The size of the offering is not important but the lessons learned from the offering are invaluable. **Please encourage your child(ren) to donate something each week to the offering.**

### Nursery

We are delighted to have **Lisa Feraco** organizing our nursery care on Sunday mornings. With a growing number of infants and toddlers, however, we will need to have volunteers to assist them on busy Sundays. If you would be willing to help out in the nursery when needed, please speak to Lisa and offer to volunteer your time. This is a fantastic resource for our families and one that helps many of us teach Sunday School, as well.

### Children's Choir

Our **Director of Music Tricia Blanchard** will be starting up the Children's Choir again soon. Plan to practice songs with her after each Sunday coffee hour. The children will perform several times throughout the year.

### Bible Sunday

This year Bible Sunday will be held on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** during the morning worship service. **Children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will be receiving their Church School Bibles.** Any older students who have not received a bible can receive one on that Sunday by letting Rev. Dave know. **Please mark the date for this special Sunday.**

### UNICEF

We will be once again participating in the UNICEF program in October. UNICEF stands for United Nations Children's Fund and donations go to help provide children around the world with food and medical basics. The small orange banks will be distributed to the children for them to collect from neighbors, relatives, friends, etc. Certainly, the children should not go out collecting without the supervision of a parent. Your help with this special children's mission project would be appreciated.

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

In November, the church school will be leading our congregation's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Early in the month, the children will assemble and distribute shopping bags with instructions to the congregation. Then, on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**, the students will help bring the bags of food to the altar to be dedicated. After the service, the youth will help to consolidate the bags and prepare them to be picked up by the Red Cross Food Pantry here in Nutley and CUMAC ECHO Food Pantry in Paterson.

### United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The children in grades seven through twelve can participate in the Vincent UMYF. Our new youth minister will be helping work with our youth to plan exciting activities. Stay tuned for a date for their planning meeting and upcoming outings.

We also have EYF for our younger students/families. **Contact Judy Concepcion for more information @ [jkconcepcion@gmail.com](mailto:jkconcepcion@gmail.com)**

### Vacation Bible School

There has been some increasing interest in our having Vacation Bible School again. Thanks to Sarah Kirk and Alicia Contractor we were able to have a fantastic one this past summer. It also is a way to invite and welcome other community families into our church. As the time gets closer, we'll let you know about a planning meeting.

*Children indeed are one of God's greatest blessings!*



Share God's Word