

Children's Ministry

Argyle United Methodist Church Newsletter

Our mission: To partner with parents to share and teach the love of Christ to children and families.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19: 13-15



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Find us on Social Media:

Facebook: Argyle UMC Children's Ministry
Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user19985566>



Fall Festival

Invite your friends and families and come join us for our annual Fall Festival, **Sunday October 30th from 4-6 pm**. Wear your costume and come for Trunk or Treat, games, hayride and all sorts of Fall Festivities!!!

Check out the sign up genius argyleumc.org/fallfest for ways to help and to have your vehicle part of Trunk or Treat fun!

30

OCTOBER 30

Fall Festival
4:00 - 6:00pm

9

NOVEMBER 9

5th Grade Fast Five Mission
(see next page)

3

DECEMBER 3

Breakfast in Bethlehem
(see next page)



Breakfast in Bethlehem

Saturday, December 3, 2016

8 AM - 11 AM

Children and families are invited to experience the city of Jesus' birth for a pancake breakfast, arts & crafts, photo ops in the stable, nativity petting zoo and lots of fun in Bethlehem!

Contact Liz Diebold at Liz@argyleumc.org to volunteer for this wonderful outreach to children and families of the area.



Fun Active Spiritual Training for 5th graders Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm

FAST 5 Bible Study Group is raising money to buy Walmart gift cards for families from Borman Elementary during the Thanksgiving holiday break.

Bring a dollar or any amount of change to donate for a great cause! Every dollar and cents helps out!

Deadline to give: Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Serving God anywhere, anyplace at anytime!

Family Devotions & Bible App

Our Sunday Morning curriculum includes weekly family devotions and an app where children can have fun while learning Bible truths and God's Word to share with friends. The app includes a parental dashboard feature, mini games with Scripture jumble, trivia, Break Out, and a glider game. In addition they will find videos, customizable avatars, and fun weekly mini quests



Download the Deep Blue Adventures app for free from your app store and check out the family and kids devotions and activities at www.deepbluekids.com

Mission Possible

To grow together as disciples, working with God, to transform the world one life at a time.

- If you like to visit and greet people how about serving on our **hospitality team**?
- Sign up for however many Sundays a month you would like to serve from 9:10- 9:40 am and/or
 - 10:40 to 11 am to help with check in and greet families and show them to their rooms.
 - We need your winning personality on our team!!!!
- If you like to teach, we would love to have you join our 9:30 or 11 AM **teaching teams**. We teach in teams so everyone has the chance to attend the worship service of their choice. Lessons, supplies and training are provided, but we need people to share God's love and grace!
- If you love God and kids but prefer to just show up and love on the children, we have a place for you to serve as a shepherd and be a **teacher's helper**!
- If organizing is more your thing, how about being a supply room organizer, or maybe you would like to use your hostess skills to help show our teachers and children the appreciation they so richly deserve!
- Prefer to use your gifts from home on clerical jobs? That is always needed too!
- If leadership is your gift, consider serving as a classroom representative for our Children's Council, our Children's Ministry leadership team that meets monthly .

Sign up to help a generation be raised in God's Word

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ca5a923a46-childrens>

Holy Listening, Sacred Time and Blessings

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26 (NRSV)*

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." — Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

After 20 years of working with children at Argyle UMC, I firmly believe that we are all born with a close connection to God. Over time as we grow up and learn more about the world, that innate connection becomes weaker and weaker unless we are intentional in keeping it open.

In our Sunday School classes we are intentional in listening to the children and allowing them space to be still and quiet (yes, even the 3 year olds) where they can pray and listen to God.. Our teachers are encouraged to visit with the kids when they first come in and to hear how their life/week is going. We dive into the Bible story and then allow them time to process God's Word and how that relates to their lives.

We close our classes with Sacred Time where we gather around the Christ candle, have silence and prayer o their lives by giving them space and encouraging them with open ended "wonder" questions. We have Holy Listening Stones, which have symbols on them. These symbols can be interpreted any way the kids want and serve as a tool to help them express their thoughts and their prayers. We use these in adult trainings and Children's Council as well as they are a great way to be able to put our thoughts and prayers into words.

As the children finish their sharing time or as they leave the class, they are given a simple blessing. We say their name, look them in their eyes and remind them that they are a child of God and that they are a blessing.

The blessing has two purposes. First of all, it reminds the children that they are a blessing to God, to their teachers, to their family, to each other and to the world. Unfortunately many children rarely hear this message and it is an important one. For children to understand that they are called to be a blessing to others, they must first know that they are a blessing to God.

The second reason for the blessing is to remind the children that the work done in the class was important work. As the teacher blesses them, it is an acknowledgement that children of all ages are capable of having a relationship with God and that what they have shared is precious and sacred.

Bless your children – before school, at bedtime, whenever is good for your family. Children truly are an important part of God's world – a blessing from God to bless the world. And with our help, they can surely do so.

It has been a blessing and a joy for me to be able to serve the children and families reached by our church. Many blessings always for you and your wonderful families. – Liz Diebold

Mark your calendar:

- ▶ Every Sunday - Sunday School at 9:30 & 11:00
- ▶ Every Wednesday - Fast Five 6 - 7:30pm
- ▶ October 30 - Fall Festival
- ▶ December 3 - Breakfast at Bethlehem 8:00am & 11:00am