

Launch!

Ministry to Families with Children

APRIL, 2014

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Easter Events

As we move through the season of Lent, both children and adults anticipate the joy of Easter. While as adults we celebrate the deeper joy of the resurrection, children are often caught up in the expectation of eggs and candy. The anticipation for them is not as tangible as Christmas, for example. Jesus' death is a pretty scary thing to talk about, and his rising from the dead is perhaps difficult to understand. In the pretend world of video games where a player can easily get "extra lives," we need to talk about Easter as the biggest real-life miracle ever. Eggs and candy are exciting, and so is waving a palm branch and shouting Hosanna and seeing the Worship Center filled with light and color to celebrate Easter Sunday. Below are some events for your family that will be a wonderful way for children to join in the miracle.

Lent Event

Sunday, April 6, 9-11:30am

During each worship time (9 or 10:30) children will meet in the Plaza instead of their regular Creation Station rooms. We'll learn about Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter. Games and a snack will be part of the morning.

Palm Sunday

April 13, 9 and 10:30am

Children join their families for worship on this happy day. There will be activities for children around the Worship Center. The Children's Choirs will sing at both services.

Easter Sunday

April 20, 8, 9 and 10:30am

Children join their families in worship to celebrate the miracle of the resurrection. Activity bags for children will be available in the pews.



www.21cartoondrawings.com

Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church

Summer Opportunities



Vacation Bible School

- Children 3 years old through students who have completed 4th grade
- August 4-8, 9:00-11:30am Woodbury Campus
- August 11-14, 6:30-8:00pm, Peaceful Grove Campus
- Cost—\$35/child or maximum \$100/family
- Register and pay online—www.BeingTheHope.org—or pick up a form at the church.

Adventure Day Camp—All God's Critters

- For children who have completed grades K-4
- July 7-11, 9am-3pm, bus pick-up at Woodbury Campus
- Cost—\$135 per child
- Register online only at www.CampMinnesota.com

Moose on the Loose!

- Storytelling for children of all ages.
- July 8-29, Tuesdays, 10:30am-noon, Woodbury Campus
- No cost or registration

Woodbury Preschool Programs

- Preschool programs, Monday-Friday, beginning June 2
- Parents' Day Out program, Tuesdays/Thursdays, beginning June 2
- Preschool cost—\$85/week, PDO cost—\$225 for 8 classes
- To register, pick up a form in the WPPS office

Leadership Camp

- For students who have completed grades 5-7
- July 7-11, 9am-3pm, bus pick-up at Woodbury Campus
- Cost—\$65 per child
- Register online only at www.CampMinnesota.com



For summer activities for all ages, go to www.BeingTheHope.org, Ministries, 2014 Summer Opportunities.

Heifer International Update

Creation Station classes recently learned about the ways Heifer International helps people all over the world. Our children are raising money to buy a goat for a needy family. We have almost reached our goal of one goat for \$120, and hope to be able to buy two goats or another animal by the end of the school year. The Bible verse focus is from Matthew 25:40, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Thank you for encouraging your children to support this effort through their offerings. You can learn more about the organization at www.heifer.org or search YouTube for the Alton Brown Heifer International clip.



5th Grade Milestone Night of Service/FROG preview Wednesday, April 9, 6:30-8pm

All 5th graders are encouraged to come for this night of transition from elementary to middle school, from Creation Station to FROG. We'll start at 6:30pm and meet together with the FROG 6th graders. After discussion about our service topic, we'll do a hands-on project. At 7:30pm, students will join the whole FROG group for their weekly worship.

Parents are encouraged to come at 7:30 for the worship service. Afterwards, Amy Fuller, Minister to Families with Students, will answer any questions you have about middle school ministry at WPGUMC.

This is an exciting evening for your students—they are so ready to make this step forward. For more information on FROG and the confirmation process at WPGUMC, go to www.BeingTheHope.org/Ministries/Students. There is a link to Middle School Youth Ministries which describes opportunities for faith formation including confirmation.



Sharing the Joy, Living the Faith, Being the Hope

Carey's Corner

Creation Station is Christian education offered for ages 2 years through 5th grade on Sunday mornings at 9:00am and 10:30am during the worship services. Creation Station is also offered on Wednesday nights for 1st through 5th graders from 6:30-7:30pm. You can register your child(ren) online from the church website:

www.beingthehope.org.

For any questions, please call or email:

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As I wrote the update on the Heifer International goat, I realized that I need to incorporate giving in general into the Creation Station curriculum. While it is easier for younger children to comprehend a concrete need like an animal for milk, the older ones can understand that bringing an offering to church every Sunday is part of how we show gratitude for our many blessings and how we support all the ministries of the church. Maybe its time to have a conversation with your children about how, because Jesus asked us to love and take care of each other, we support the work of our church. The church website (BeingTheHope.org) has great descriptions and pictures of the work accomplished with our contributions. Your family may want to choose a specific area of mission, or you could talk about how the church pays the same bills that you do at home: electricity, water, etc.

As adults, the easiest way to give at WPGUMC is through HopeNet. Once you register, you can access all your church records, not just giving. Go to the BeingTheHope.org site and find the HopeNet link.

Thank you so much for all you give: your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.

CALENDAR

April

- 6 **Lent Event**—all ages
- 9 **5th grade Night of Service**,
FROG preview
Last 3-8 Choir rehearsal
- 13 **Palm Sunday**, no Creation Station
Children's Sabbath
Both Children's Choirs sing at 9am and
10:30am services
- 20 **Easter Sunday**, no Creation Station

May

- 7 **Last K-2 Choir rehearsal**
- 11 **Last Sunday Creation Station**
K-2 Choir sings at 9 and 10:30am services
Mother's Day
- 14 **Last Wednesday Creation Station**

June

- 2 **WPPS Summer Programs begin**