

Launch!

Ministry to Families with Children

JANUARY, 2015

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Carey's Corner

I have been thinking lately about talking with children about the hard things in life. Three WPGUMC families with young children lost their grandpas during the Christmas season. One boy said, "I thought Jesus died so that we could live forever." I explained that we do live forever, just partly here on earth and the rest of the time in Heaven. That seemed to answer his question, but did not ease his heartbreak.

It is tempting to try to shield our children from the difficult, frightening, and sad parts of life. Children who learn to cope with things as they come, however, develop the skills they will need as adults. That said, bringing our faith into these moments is crucial.

I read once that Americans ask God to take our burdens away, while the rest of the world prays for God's abiding presence during times of burden. At the Prayer Milestone we talk about how God answers prayers. When we pray for healing, it doesn't always happen. When we pray for mom and dad to stay together, it doesn't always happen. But when we pray for God to give us strength, peace and comfort, it always happens.

Dan's Christmas Eve sermon had a great message for both children and adults. All the terrible things we hear about or even personally experience are not part of God's plan for us. God's love for us is constant and unconditional. God does not make bad things happen; He is with us every moment of both the bad and the good times. Praise God!



Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15pm

Creation Station Room 204

Do your children enjoy music class at school? Didn't you love the Children's Choir during the Christmas season? Bring your children on Wednesday nights for a fun rehearsal time with LaGretta Lunde, elementary music teacher and our choir director. The choir will sing in worship several more times this year including Palm Sunday, March 29. Choir members are welcome to purchase pizza and stay for Wednesday night Creation Station, 6:30-7:30pm. Questions? Email LaGretta at laglunde@gmail.com.

Woodbury Peaceful Grove United Methodist Church

Milestone Events

Plan now to attend these family events which mark an important step in your children's faith journey. The Milestone Events are held on a Saturday (except for 5th grade) with a family blessing during worship on Sunday.

January 10 Second Grade Prayer

Learn about why we pray. Why don't we always get what we pray for? The focus will be on the Lord's Prayer, and children will make a prayer bracelet and journal. On **Sunday, January 11**, families will be blessed by the congregation and will lead the Lord's Prayer in worship.

February 7 Third Grade Baptism

February 28 Fourth Grade Communion

April 22 Fifth Grade Night of Service (Wednesday)



**It's Never Too Early
to Think about
Summer!**

Be sure to check out **Summer Sunday** on Sunday, March 1, in the Woodbury Commons. Pick up information and registration forms for Vacation Bible School, Adventure Day Camp, Summer Stretch and more. Woodbury Preschool Programs will also have summer camp information available.

The King's Birthday



More pictures on Facebook at
Being The Hope Children's Ministry



We had so much fun! Thanks to everyone for your participation and assistance!

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 Kindergarten 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: Carey Erkel, Minister to Families with Children, 651-738-0305, ext. 19 or cerkel@wumc-pgumc.org.



CALENDAR

January

- 4 Creation Station resumes
- 7 Creation Station resumes
- 10 Prayer Milestone—2nd grade
- 11 Milestone Blessing in Worship

February

- 7 Baptism Milestone—3rd grade
- 8 Milestone Blessing in Worship
- 28 Communion Milestone—4th grade

March

- 1 Milestone Blessing in Worship
- 11 No Wednesday Creation Station
- 22 Lent Event
- 29 Palm Sunday, Children's Sabbath,
No Creation Station

April

- 5 Easter Sunday, no Creation Station

Sharing the Joy, Living the Faith, Being the Hope