



Wednesday, April 12, 2021

Greetings FUMC,

We are sending this news to you on Wednesday so it does not get lost in Friday's email newsletter. On Sunday, April 11 the FUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee voted to reopen our nursery with the blessing of the Trustees which was then granted on Monday, April 12. As we return to more in-person ministries we are taking this opportunity to reorganize and improve on previous ministry iterations including in our nursery. Below are our strategies and goals regarding nursery care at FUMC:

- + The Staff Parish Relations Committee (and other church leaders) express their clearest commitment to providing excellent nursery care at FUMC. We believe this is a vitally important ministry. Pastors and staff agree. We will seek and maintain the highest standards in nursery ministry.
- + Per FUMC Safe Sanctuary policy, all nursery, children, & youth rooms must have 2 adults present at all times.
- + FUMC seeks to hire and maintain 2 regular nursery workers who work every Sunday AM & Wednesday PM (when applicable) as well as substitute workers. Therefore FUMC is creating two part-time nursery positions to meet this need. Each position requires 5-8 hours per week. Pay is competitive and generous. The Job Description is now posted at fumcparagould.org/job-openings.html. Resumes are being accepted now. Preference will be given to those with experience in childcare. FUMC members are welcome to apply. Paid nursery workers must be at least 21 years old. FUMC f/t & p/t staff are strongly encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.
- + Along with one regular paid worker per room, FUMC will need volunteers to assist in each room on a regular basis. See schedule below. This is a small and simple task. All volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained. Volunteers must be 18+. Age 16+ youth can volunteer in the nursery with their parents'/guardians' approval and so long as volunteering does not conflict with their regular worship service or attending Sunday School. (For example, a senior high youth member could attend worship at 9am, Sunday School at 10am, and volunteer in the nursery at 11am.)
- + FUMC currently does not expect to restart the 9:30am "Children's Church". The nursery will be open for children 3 years and younger. Children of all ages are welcome and celebrated in worship. FUMC will continue to provide Children's Time, Songs, and Worship Packets to encourage children's participation in worship.
- + **NO START DATE FOR REOPENING THE NURSERY HAS BEEN SET.** The date depends on hiring workers and organizing volunteers as quickly as possible.

As members of FUMC, I want to encourage you on 3 fronts:

- + **One**, perhaps you are someone who might be interested in this position. If so, please reach out. Children's ministry and nursery care are very important. It would be ideal if people within our congregation were interested in this ministry and this work. I am praying now, hoping that God might be calling someone in our church. We have increased the pay and hours of these positions in hopes to make them even more attractive. I believe this is a wonderful part-time opportunity to earn income and enjoy vital church ministry. Please consider doing so.
- + **Second**, perhaps you know someone who is not involved in our church, but who might be a great fit for this position. Please forward them our information and help us to hire excellent nursery workers.
- + **Third**, our SPRC was passionate about leaving the door open to volunteers to be involved in nursery care. I agree. We should not have to ask twice for church members to help care for our youngest children. We will be organizing a volunteer rotation to accommodate everyone. If you typically attend 9am, then you could volunteer at 11am. Or

vice-versa. If you are not in Sunday School, you could work in the nursery at 10am. When these babies are baptized, we take vows to support them in their discipleship. This is one small step on that journey. Our church is only as strong as its members are willing to be involved and the nursery is no exception.

Please hold this process in prayer Reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane Womack

SUNDAY NURSERY				
7:30-9am	Combined nursery due to less demand. Staffed by paid Workers 1 & 2.			
	Baby Nursery (0-18mos)		Toddler Nursery (18mos-3y)	
9am-10am	Worker 1	Volunteer	Worker 2	Volunteer
10am-11am		Volunteer		Volunteer
11am-12noon		Volunteer		Volunteer
WEDNESDAY NURSERY (to be reintroduced in Fall with Connect Wednesday)				
	Baby Nursery (0-18mos)		Toddler Nursery (18mos-3y)	
5:45-7pm	Worker 1	Volunteer	Worker 2	Volunteer
7-9pm	Combined nursery due to less demand. Staffed by paid Workers 1 & 2.			