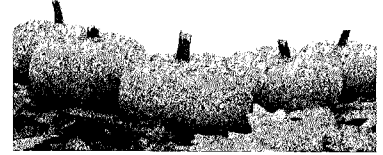


CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

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October/November 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fall! As we celebrate the arrival of autumn, we're also getting ready for Halloween by introducing many of the traditional symbols in an entertaining, non-threatening way by focusing on the fun of pretending, something all children do many times each day; we have carved jack-o-lanterns with circle eyes and triangle noses; and have made a friendly ghost or two. The children know it's all make-believe fun. We hope you'll agree with our staff and kindergarten board that even a church school, with proper emphasis, can retain some of the wonderful traditions of Halloween, Santa, the Easter Bunny, etc. We are beginning to look ahead to Thanksgiving and a season of giving thanks. We will again be collecting canned goods to be donated to the CFUMC canned food drive. It is hard to believe the first of November is next week. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

With Gratitude,

Melanie

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENT

Thurs, OR Fri October 28-29	Halloween Parties
Saturday, October 30	CFUMC Trunk of Treats, 1:00 – 3:00pm (register online)
Tuesday, November 2	School Closed for Teacher Workday
Monday, November 8	Parenting in Tough Times workshop, 9:30am, sanctuary, RSVP
Tues, Nov. 9 OR Wed, Nov. 10	Chapel, 9:15 am, Bring canned goods
Monday - Friday, November 22 -26	School closes for Thanksgiving Holidays
Wed, Dec. 8 OR Thurs, Dec. 9	Chapel, 9:15 am, Bring donated toys, unwrapped
Thursday, December 9	Staff Christmas lunch; ALL classes dismiss at 12:00 noon
Saturday, December 11	CFUMC Morning with Santa; 8:00am- 12:00 (register online)
Sunday, December 12	CFUMC Live Nativity; 6:30 on the church lawn
Tuesday, December 14	Last day of school before Christmas break
Wed, Dec. 15 – Mon, Jan. 3	School closed for Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, January 4	School reopens
Monday, January 17	School closed for MLK Celebration Day

CHAPEL

One of our favorite traditions at CMK is our chapel services, especially during November and December. During the month of November we place special emphasis on helping others and partner with Chamblee First United Methodist Church to collect donated food items to be distributed to our community for those in need. This year we will continue this tradition of collecting canned goods and having chapel in the sanctuary, but we will divide the school into 2 groups for chapel so that we have a smaller amount of people together in the sanctuary. I realize this may mean that some of you with siblings in our school may need to attend chapel 2 times in order to see your children, but I am hopeful that you will see it as a joy (to attend twice) instead of a hardship. Please know we don't expect you to attend twice, only if you want to see both children if you have siblings enrolled who will attend chapel on different days.

Chapel starts at 9:15am in the church sanctuary. After carpool, park your car near the PMO playground and come in through the breezeway beside the PMO playground. It doesn't matter whether you're dressed for the office, for the gym, or for grocery shopping, you are always welcome. Children sit together with their classes, and we'll have a section of church pews set up for parents. We love having our CMK family together to sing, pray, and listen for God's word. We will bring our 2 and 2 ½ year old classes to chapel in January.

Below are the dates and times for our classes for the month of November.

Tuesday, November 9 – classes of Kindergarten, Mrs. Patti Payne and Mrs. Tracy Kester
Wednesday, November 10 – classes of PreK and Mrs. Germann

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

CFUMC Trunk of Treats - On Saturday, October 30, Chamblee First United Methodist Church will host a community Halloween event called Trunk of Treats. This year the church has invited the parents of PMO and CMK to participate by decorating a car trunk and handing out goodies (car decorating starts at noon), in addition to attending the festivities. It is sure to be a fun evening with costumes, treats, and even prizes for the best-decorated trunks. Be sure to find Mrs. O'Keefe and say Hi! Register online at <https://chambleeumc.org/happening/trunkoftreats/>.

Halloween Parties - If bringing a costume to school for your child's class Halloween party is part of your child's class plans, please follow the guidance from your child's teacher. We suggest that you choose positive characters and opt for costumes that are easy to put on and take off. Each classroom's party may vary slightly depending on the age of the children, the location of the party and the activities planned. Thank you in advance for supporting your child's teacher.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We are very blessed to be part of a caring church who is committed to the community. Food collection has started (now until Nov 18) for canned goods or a preassembled bag of specific food for those in need. More information will be sent home about this event. The church is also inviting anyone who would like to help with sorting or distributing food bags to contact them at lking@chambleeumc.org.

PARENTING CORNER

From time to time we, as a staff, meet together to discuss what we are seeing in our classrooms with our students. So far we have noticed that your children are bright, eager to learn but may have missed out on some key skills due to a lack of opportunity and experiences over the last 12-18 months. We, as a staff have discussed ways to promote learning to include some of these skills and would like to ask you to help us in the areas listed below. Our suggestions come from the experience of our teachers and a desire to have your children "make up" for lost experiences due to the pandemic. We invite you to partner with us in these activities.

1. **Play** – We know that over the past year, many of you were at home with you children trying to juggle childcare, work, safety and the health of your family. At times, electronics were used to keep your child engaged for a period of time. This proved to be of great benefit since many of our children are above what we would expect in the areas of recognizing letters, colors, shapes, finger dexterity and the ability to attend to a story that uses sounds and pictures. What we would like to recommend for the next few months that parents actively engage in pretend play with your child. At school we are focusing on the teacher-child interaction by helping children make choices about what to play with when they have free time and by connecting their learning to prior knowledge about a topic. (comparing apples and pumpkins, etc.) Two suggestions I would make for you at home are to extend children's imaginary play by asking questions like "I see you are driving your pretend car around. Where are you going? Are you carpooling with anyone/picking up anyone? What will you do there? Where can you park the car? What will you do if you run out of gas? All of these questions will extend the play of the child and give him/her examples of things to think about while pretending. The second suggestion is to use self narration to describe the play. For example, you can model planning and organizing thinking during pretend play by saying, "I am going to use these blocks to build a restaurant. I need a kitchen section and a dining room and a parking lot, etc. Continue talking throughout the entire play session about what you need, how you are going to arrange the blocks for the different parts of the building, why you are arranging the blocks in a certain way, and interspersing talk like "I wonder if I am going to make this a Mexican restaurant or a McDonald's (or pick two restaurants your child is familiar with) and describe what you decide and why. This type of commentary (spoken out loud) models your organized thinking for you child and this is a skill that is necessary for school well into college (organized thinking). For more information about play visit these websites:

<http://www.hanen.org/helpful-info/articles/the-land-of-make-believe.aspx>

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/kids-activities-and-printables/activities-for-kids/arts-and-craft-ideas/importance-pretend-play.html>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/play-magic.html>

2. **Listening and following directions** – If possible, as you are going through your nighttime routine give your child 2-3 tasks to complete on their own before you intervene and remind them. For instance, tell your child to get on pajamas, brush his teeth and pick out a book to get ready for bedtime. If these skills seem too hard to do by himself, pick easier ones; the objective is to work to see if you child can remember and accomplish all three things that you have asked him to do without any reminders. This allows your child to practice his listening and attending to an adult, working memory, and independence. Be patient with your child but give him enough time to get it all done before "rescuing" him by a reminder or you doing it for him. Set a timer if that is a motivator.