

## **Middletown United Methodist Church 2020 Learning Path Preschool Recap**

*Respectfully submitted by Liz Hill, Director*

For the 2020- 2021 school year, Learning Path Preschool began with 84 students. In addition, we had 1 virtual student. In order to accommodate the new COVID restrictions, we made many changes including having our students enter through multiple doors, lunch in the classrooms and our teachers wearing masks. We sanitized the classrooms and playground between groups, We were able to remain open for the entire school year with only 2 classes having to quarantine for 2 weeks. We were able to hold small group graduations for our families in the sanctuary.

For the 2021 - 2022 school year we have 87 students registered. We have opened an additional classroom. The students will enter the building through separate entrances and the teachers will wear masks. We will work with our licensing agency to ensure that all COVID requirements are implemented. Our philosophy continues to be process over product, we focus on the journey the children take rather than the finished product. We will continue to establish a purposeful connection between the parents, preschool, board, and the church congregation. During these difficult times, we are happy to be able to provide our students with a safe place to socialize and learn. We are continuing to enhance our curriculum and expand our teachings, while remaining a school where each child is loved and cherished for their individual strengths.



### **2021 Family Ministries Team Yearly Report:**

*Respectfully submitted by Joyce Johnson*

- ❖ Youth Group - Met 1 to 2 times a month with an average of 2-3 youth in attendance each time. The RISE Mission team and young adult mission team could not happen in 2021 due to COVID-19.
  - NEW:
    - Teen-led weeding service project on church grounds happened 3 times this summer for 2 hours each and averaged 6 local teens coming to help each time.
    - A new MUMC teen lead missional program will start meeting to plan and implement local service projects throughout the school year.
- ❖ Family Ministries activities since last report:
  - Summer 2020: Hosted 2 movie nights - the first one in August had greater attendance (approx. 25 - 30 pp) than the September one (approx 12 -18 ppl).
  - Harvest Festival - 104
  - Sunday evening Christmas Caroling Bonfires
  - Women's Retreat: 17 pp was a 1 day event - ½ virtual, ½ in person outside
  - Easter Eggstravaganza: 88 pp
  - LadyBug Festival: 22 pp
  - '21 VBS: We were able to be in-person this year and followed all MUMC Covid-19 protocols. We started all outside on Monday, but weather forced us inside the rest of the week (except for water and snack breaks). We LOVED the air conditioning! 38 registered campers (17 were preschool age) + 22 teen helpers & 28 adult helpers made for an amazing God filled week and culminated in our Sunday celebration with some new families (LPP families) visiting our church service for the first time.
- ❖ Small Groups:
  - 2020 Vision Bible Group: 25 pp, Wednesday Night Coffee Chats: avg. 12 pp, Virtual Message Bag: avg. 5, Daily Devotionals: avg. 100/day, Thursday morning Prayer Group: Avg. 8-10

- The walking group started up after the Women's Retreat and has 20 people on their email list. A golfing group has started up too with 4 avg.
- Colleen O'Neil's Reading Club ministry started up in 2021 and will continue this school year.
- Dianne Thompson's Nature Walk has started up.
- Sandy Whitten is starting a Book Club
- ❖ Sunday School:
  - School year - offered asynchronous Sunday School program - due to COVID-19
  - Tracking shows 8 families opened the emails.
  - Summer Sunday in-person children's ministry and Nursery room started back up on May 30, 2021 with average attendance between 2 - 4 children.
  - Fall Sunday school will start back up in person in line with MUMC Covid-19 protocols and a Wednesday night 10 week VBS style elementary program will start on 9/8 with teen crew leader volunteer opportunities available.
- ❖ LPP update - Even during COVID-19 - Still Growing! LPP met or exceeded the State Dept. of Health's COVID-19 guidelines.
  - September 2020 started with 83 students, ended the school year with 84
  - September 2021 will begin with 88 students enrolled.
- ❖ Previous Year TEAM GOALS 2021:
  - Launch a children's ministry in the Fall of 2021 using a virtual platform.
  - Use this year to strategically reimagine ALL children, youth, and young adult ministries within MUMC.
  - Relaunch face-to-face 1 children, 1 youth, and 1 young adult Ministry when possible - post COVID-19 concerns.
- ❖ Team Goals 2022:
  - At least one Summer Mission opportunity in 2022 for the youth and young adults.
  - 10 children involved in the Sunday Morning Sunday School by January 2022.
  - Offer at least 3 Wednesday evening sessions (Fall, post Christmas, post Easter) throughout the 2021/2022 school year with 15 Children involved by the third session.
  - Launch the teen-led service group (Fall 2021), have 6 service opportunities by January 2023, with ten youth involved by March 2022.