

# Almost everything you need to know about the Children's ministry at Mt. Zion UMC for 2016/17 is in this packet...

Dear Parents,

We have so much going on around here this fall and I know that it is potentially very confusing! So I have tried to condense the Children's ministry into age groups to help with programming opportunities and questions. The first three pages contain information for everyone and the following pages are divided up by children's ages to give you only the information you need. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you may have! *If you do not receive a weekly email update from the children's ministry PLEASE email me and let me know so that I can add you to the distribution list. The email recaps the happenings of the week and contains lots of reminders.*

We are adding a new ministry this year. It is for 4th and 5th graders!! It is called ZAP (Zioneers Action Project). The group will meet a few Sundays a month during the 11am worship service (after Children's sermon). Each month they will have a different service project they will be working on. *See page 3 for more details.*

## **Main Purpose of our Ministry:**

Christian education of all children, ages birth to 5th grade: thru Sunday School, Sunday morning missions and Children's worship, Wednesday night programming, various Sunday evening events and Vacation Bible School. The Children's Council asks the questions:

- How are we teaching scripture, theology, history, and doctrine?
- Are the children growing in knowledge?
- Are families being served and strengthened in their faith walk?

**Children's Ministry Chair:** Thes Spivey  
tdspivey@hotmail.com

## **Children's Council Members:**

Susan Kaye	Meredith Smiles	Marcia Nally
Kathy Yarger	Laura Stubbs	Meredith Minano
Kimberly Lassiter	Shanon Bonds	
Vivian Roberts	Allison McCord	

## **Goals for 2016/2017:**

- Teach life application of Bible text (not just stories).
- Teach the Bible in a way the kids will remember and enjoy
- Get families involved in Bible education together.
- Get more people involved in volunteering the children's area.
- Give the parents tools and support them in their efforts to raise Biblically literate and Godly children

I am looking forward to what God has in store for us this year. I pray that your family will be blessed beyond measure and that Mt. Zion will become your second home...one that offers comfort, support, guidance, fellowship, discipleship and love.

Serving Christ Together,  
Jeni McCord

# New Ministries in 2016...

## 4th and 5th Grade Extension ZAP

Welcome 4th & 5th Graders to ZAP! We will be meeting on Sundays during the 11:00am service to work on mission projects for organizations in our area. Some projects you will be seeing are pillow cases for Children's Hospital, neck coolers for firefighters, birthday bags for MUST and more. And in between we will take time to practice social skills that will benefit your child when he/she has to interact with adults. The program will be lead by Kathy Yarger and meet TWO Sundays a month in the Upper Room following the children's sermon at 11am service (parents will need to follow your child out and sign you in OR he/she can remain as a group with your Sunday School class and parents will pick you up after worship.) Pick up is in the Chapel at noon. We will NOT meet on first (Communion Sunday) and third Sundays of the month.

## Large Group/Small Group Sunday School

This year all elementary age kids will be in the CLUBHOUSE for Sunday School and we will begin using a format known as Large group/Small group. Each week the kids will all gather for a lesson (Large group) then break out into age groups for discussion, activity or craft (small group). We will be studying Christian Living and learning how to apply Biblical lessons to our daily lives.

## Don't forget about...

### GEMS! (Good Enough Moms)

GEMS is a moms group for mothers with any age children to support, encourage, and have fun together. We know that every mother is stressed out and trying to stretch herself too thin, inevitably leaves her feeling like she's just not good enough or doing enough or being the best she can be....GEMS is about celebrating motherhood, making connections, embracing God's grace and experiencing God's love through relationships and resources.

**When do we meet?** Wednesdays (following WOW dinner schedule) 6:15-7:15pm

**Where do we meet?** We meet in the mezzanine (room 307)

**What about childcare?** Childcare is provided at no cost during our regular Wednesday night meetings. (Infants are welcome to stay with mom.)

**How do I sign up?** If you would like to join our group, please email Nikole Edmonds at [edmondsnik@hotmail.com](mailto:edmondsnik@hotmail.com) or Jeni McCord at [jeni.mccord@mtzionumc.org](mailto:jeni.mccord@mtzionumc.org)

### Dads!

Being a dad in today's busy world carries a certain level of stress that not all men understand. Come and hang out with other dads to talk, make connections and find support about whatever may be on your mind.

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**Where do we meet?** We meet in the lounge (room by the gym)

**What about childcare?** Childcare is provided at no cost during our regular Wednesday night meetings.

**How do I sign up?** If you would like to join our group stop on by! If you have questions you can email Jack McCord ([jmccord@batteryusa.com](mailto:jmccord@batteryusa.com)) or Dan Edmonds ([notredan90@hotmail.com](mailto:notredan90@hotmail.com))

## How can I get involved in the children's ministry??

We have 60 families with children on roster who have attended Mt. Zion in the last year. Of that number a little more than half have volunteered in some way in the ministry. Children's Council would like to see that number grow. We have structured our ministry in such a way that you can volunteer for big or little time commitments. In almost anyway you volunteer in the children's ministry, you will find the opportunity to be a "NO PREP, EASY TO FOLLOW, SUPPLIES GATHERED, LOW PRESSURE" volunteer job.

**PEW SHEPHERD:** This volunteer agrees to sit in the first 2 pews with the kids during the first 15 minutes of the 11:00 am service. (rotating schedule, at least once a month)

**MISSION CENTER VOLUNTEER:** This volunteer sets up the tables and puts out all the supplies for that week's project. All supplies are pre-sorted and in a basket labeled for that week. At the end of missions the volunteers places all supplies back in the basket and returns the basket to the shelf. They place completed projects in the top of the baskets and take down the tables. (one time or several, Sunday 11:15-11:45)

**SHEPHERD:** This person gets to make sure that each child gets signed in and out of Sunday school as well as taking the children to the activity for the day. Shepherds also help the children practice their verses. There are no lesson plans to work on! The commitment is for one semester (Aug-Dec OR Jan-May) Sunday 9:45-10:45am **We have a sign up genius for this in case you can only volunteer for a few weeks or want to fill in where needed.**

**ZIONEER CHAPERONE:** Our 4th and 5th graders take several fun field trips throughout the year and participate in service projects as well. Sunday 5:00-7:00pm (schedule varies, volunteer for one trip or for every one!)

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SALT AND LIGHT LEADER:** This volunteer would serve for 6 weeks consecutively and teach a performing art to the kids ages 2nd-5th grade. Drama and Art are a few examples. But the options are endless!

**CHILDREN'S COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:** This group meets once a month and plans big events (not Vacation Bible School that has it's own committee). We discuss issues and plan out all aspects of the children's ministry.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING TEAM:** This group plans and implements all aspects of VBS. We have the team broken into subgroups (registration, curriculum, decorations, crafts, donations and T-shirts) if you are willing to oversee one of these areas please let me know!

## **My child is little bitty and not walking yet...**

**Sunday morning:** Nursery is available from 8:15 am until 12:00pm in the nursery (Children's Area, Room 102)

**Wednesday evenings:** Nursery is available from 6:00-7:30 pm (Children's Area, Room 102)

## **A NOTE ABOUT OUR NURSERY:**

Children ages Newborn - 5 years old, (not in Kindergarten) are nursery eligible, and are welcome to stay with us the entire time that you are with us on Sunday morning.

Nursery is available

Sunday mornings 8:15am - 12:00pm

Wednesday nights 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Nursery is also available for special church functions on an as needed basis. Details will be made available through the event.

There is a sign in sheet that you will need to sign your child in and out on, just outside room 102. We will give you a pager if your child is under 3 years old. The pager is a way for us to reach you in the church, if it is absolutely necessary. We apologize, but we cannot release your child to anyone under the age of 18.

\*All of our nursery staff is CPR/AED certified and Safe Sanctuary Complaint (back ground checked and trained in abuse prevention).

\*Please feel free to bring your child's bottle, favorite Sippy cup, and/or snack (no nuts please).

\*Please feel free to bring your child's lovey, pacifier, or favorite small stuffed toy if you need to.

\* Our Baby nursery has a permanent play pen with rubber floor, activity walls, cabinets, cribs, rockers, high chairs and toys, etc.

## **My child is walking but under 3 years old...**

**Sunday morning:** Nursery is available from 8:15 am until 12:00pm in the nursery (Children's Area, Room 102)

The children will be hearing a different Bible story each week. We will make a simple craft each week that reinforces the story. We will use age appropriate stories that get little ones worshipping God and knowing Jesus.

*When your child turns 3, if you would like for him/her to move down into Room 106 for rotational Sunday School please let us know and we will help make the transition.*

**Wednesday evenings:** Nursery is available from 6:00-7:30 pm (Children's Area, Room 102)

*As soon as your child turns 3 years old he/she is welcome to join the Salt and Light Program.. The kids will rotate thru recreation, activity and Bible study. 6:00-7:15pm (200 Hallway)*

## **My child is 3 or 4 years old...**

**Sunday Morning: 8:15-9:40 am** Nursery is available (Children's Area, Room 102)

**9:45-12:00** Rotations (Children's Area, Room 106)

ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY MORNING:

9:45-10:05 Free playtime in centers (starting the lesson before this time means lots of interruptions since several folks run late with little ones☺)

10:05-10:45 Lesson with Craft

10:50-11:10 Free playtime in centers (This allows for those kids leaving after Sunday school and/or coming for worship to join in without feeling like he/she is missing something)

11:10-11:40 Lesson with recreation (kids will go to the gym or outside)

11:40-11:50 Potty and Water break

11:50- pick up Veggie-Tales (yes this is a video...heavy sigh but the kids LOVE Veggie-Tales and the videos are VERY Biblically based so this is not 'just' TV time)

*If your Family is not in the habit of coming for 2 hours, we encourage you to start giving it a try!! If you need an adult Sunday school class to attend I'm happy to help you find a place where you will feel welcomed and can deepen your faith.*

**Wednesday evenings: 6:00-7:15 pm** (200 Hallway) As soon as your child turns 3 years old he/she is welcome to join the Salt and Light Program. The kids will rotate thru recreation, activity and Bible study.

### **Reminders:**

- \* Grades of children is based on the start date of September 1, 2016
- \*Children MUST be signed IN and OUT by a parent for ALL programs
- \*Wednesday evening programs follow the WOW dinner schedule

### **Don't forget about GEMS! (Good Enough Mom)**

GEMS is a moms group for mothers with any age children to support, encourage, and have fun together. We know that every mother is stressed out and trying to stretch herself too thin, inevitably leaves her feeling like she's just not good enough or doing enough or being the best she can be...GEMS is about celebrating motherhood, making connections, embracing God's grace and experiencing God's love through relationships and resources

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## My child is in **Kindergarten or 1st grade...**

**Sunday morning:** 8:30 am children are encouraged to attend worship

9:45– 12:00 pm **EMW** (Education, Mission and Worship)

The children of Mt. Zion are offered a comprehensive Godly experience on Sunday mornings, which includes education, missions and worship!

*This Sunday morning schedule runs September 11th thru Memorial Day.*

### **Here is how it works:**

**9:45 am (Education) CLUBHOUSE (trailer in parking lot)** Children will attend Sunday School. The children will discover God's Word thru several learning stations using large group/small group format. Each week we meet as a large group and hear a lesson then break into smaller age based groups and have discussion, games or craft.

**10:55 am (BIG Church)** The children are brought to the Sanctuary (first 2 pews are reserved for us) where we sit and worship with our entire church family until the Children's sermon is over. We then head over to room 307 for missions.

**11:15 am (Missions)** Children move from the Sanctuary to Room 307 for mission centers. Each week the project changes, but every week our goal is to give every child a way to serve the Lord in a hands-on way.

**11:45 am (Worship)** Children move to the Chapel for a worship service designed specifically for them! Singing, skits, and many elements of traditional worship will be used. This service is designed to get the children to worship in a way that engages them. Parents pick up in Chapel.

***This program is 'seamless' meaning your child will be actively involved for 2 hours on Sunday morning. However, if you are not here for the education hour your child may join us for the remainder of the morning. Just follow us out after the children's sermon in Big church and sign your child into Room 307. Pick up in the Chapel.***

*If your Family is not in the habit of coming for 2 hours, we encourage you to start giving it a try!! If you need an adult Sunday school class to attend I'm happy to help you find a place where you will feel welcomed and can deepen your faith.*

**Wednesday evenings:** Salt and Light Program.. The kids will rotate thru recreation, activity and Bible study. 6:00-7:15pm (200 Hallway)

### **Reminders:**

- \* Grades of children is based on the start date of September 1, 2016
- \*Children MUST be signed IN and OUT by a parent for ALL programs
- \*Wednesday evening programs follow the WOW dinner schedule

This year the curriculum in Sunday school will focus on life application of Christian principles. Salt and Light focuses on lessons of Jesus told in the New Testament and Children's Worship focuses on stories of the Old Testament.

Don't forget about GEMS!! Or DADS!! (page 3 explains)

## **My child is in the 2nd grade...**

**Sunday morning:** 8:30 am children are encouraged to attend worship

9:45– 12:00 pm **EMW** (Education, Mission and Worship)

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### **Here is how it works:**

**9:45 am (Education) CLUBHOUSE (trailer in parking lot)** Children will attend Sunday School. The children will discover God's Word thru several learning stations using large group/small group format. Each week we meet as a large group and hear a lesson then break into smaller age based groups and have discussion, games or craft.

**10:55 am (BIG Church)** The children are brought to the Sanctuary (first 2 pews are reserved for us) where we sit and worship with our entire church family until the Children's sermon is over. We then head over to room 307 for missions.

**11:15 am (Missions)** Children move from the Sanctuary to Room 307 for mission centers. Each week the project changes, but every week our goal is to give every child a way to serve the Lord in a hands-on way.

**11:45 am (Worship)** Children move to the Chapel for a worship service designed specifically for them! Singing, skits, and many elements of traditional worship will be used. This service is designed to get the children to worship in a way that engages them. Parents pick up in Chapel.

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*If your Family is not in the habit of coming for 2 hours, we encourage you to start giving it a try!! If you need an adult Sunday school class to attend I'm happy to help you find a place where you will feel welcomed and can deepen your faith.*

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## **My child is in the 3rd grade...**

**Sunday morning:** 8:30 am children are encouraged to attend worship

9:45– 12:00 pm **EMW** (Education, Mission and Worship)

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*This Sunday morning schedule runs September 11th thru Memorial Day.*

### **Here is how it works:**

**9:45 am (Education) CLUBHOUSE (trailer in parking lot)** Children will attend Sunday School. The children will discover God's Word thru several learning stations using large group/small group format. Each week we meet as a large group and hear a lesson then break into smaller age based groups and have discussion, games or craft.

**10:55 am (BIG Church)** The children are brought to the Sanctuary (first 2 pews are reserved for us) where we sit and worship with our entire church family until the Children's sermon is over. We then head over to room 307 for missions.

**11:15 am (Missions)** Children move from the Sanctuary to Room 307 for mission centers. Each week the project changes, but every week our goal is to give every child a way to serve the Lord in a hands-on way.

**11:45 am (Worship)** Children move to the Chapel for a worship service designed specifically for them! Singing, skits, and many elements of traditional worship will be used. This service is designed to get the children to worship in a way that engages them. Parents pick up in Chapel.

***This program is 'seamless' meaning your child will be actively involved for 2 hours on Sunday morning. However, if you are not here for the education hour your child may join us for the remainder of the morning. Just follow us out after the children's sermon in Big church and sign your child into Room 307. Pick up in the Chapel.***

*If your Family is not in the habit of coming for 2 hours, we encourage you to start giving it a try!! If you need an adult Sunday school class to attend I'm happy to help you find a place where you will feel welcomed and can deepen your faith.*

**Wednesday evenings:** Salt and Light Program.. The kids will rotate thru recreation, performing art and Bible study. 6:00-7:15pm (200 Hallway)

### **Reminders:**

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- \*Children MUST be signed IN and OUT by a parent for ALL programs
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## My child is in the **4th or 5th grade....**

**Sunday morning: 8:30 am** children are encouraged to attend worship

**9:45– 12:00 pm EMW** (Education, Mission and Worship)

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*This Sunday morning schedule runs September 11th thru Memorial Day.*

### **Here is how it works:**

**9:45 am (Education) CLUBHOUSE (trailer in parking lot)** Children will attend Sunday School. The children will discover God's Word thru several learning stations using large group/small group format. Each week we meet as a large group and hear a lesson then break into smaller age based groups and have discussion, games or craft. *(On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month 4th and 5th graders must be picked up after Sunday School)*

**10:55 am (BIG Church) \*\*2nd and 4th Sundays** The children are brought to the Sanctuary (first 2 pews are reserved for us) where we sit and worship with our entire church family until the Children's sermon is over. We then go to the Upper Room for ZAP. \*\*\*

**11:15 am (Missions)** Children move from the Sanctuary to Upper Room for ZAP (Zioneer Action Project). This group works on in depth mission projects and practical life skills. *On the 1st and 3rd Sundays the 4th and 5th graders stay in worship with their parents so they can worship as a family. \*\*Parents would pick up after Sunday School hour.*

**11:45 am (Worship)** Children move to the Chapel for a worship service designed specifically for them! Singing, skits, and many elements of traditional worship will be used. This service is designed to get the children to worship in a way that engages them. Parents pick up in Chapel.

***This program is 'seamless' meaning your child will be actively involved for 2 hours on Sunday morning. However, if you are not here for the education hour your child may join us for the remainder of the morning. Just follow us out after the children's sermon in Big church and sign your child into Room 307. Pick up in the Chapel. EXCEPTION 1st and 3rd SUNDAYS (ZAP DOES NOT MEET) THEN PICK UP IS AT 10:45 IN THE CLUBHOUSE.***

*If your Family is not in the habit of coming for 2 hours, we encourage you to start giving it a try!! If you need an adult Sunday school class to attend I'm happy to help you find a place where you will feel welcomed and can deepen your faith.*

**Sunday evenings:** Several Sundays through out the year, this group of tweens meet together for food, fun and fellowship (the group is called Zioneers) Please email Jeni McCord at [jeni.mccord@mtzionumc.org](mailto:jeni.mccord@mtzionumc.org) to make sure your child gets on the mailing list to keep you posted of upcoming events. On other Sunday nights when Zioneers is not meeting, if you are involved in a Bible Study; childcare is available from 5:00-7:00 pm (Children's Area, Room 111)

**Wednesday evenings:** Salt and Light Program.. The kids will rotate thru recreation, performing art and Bible study. 6:00-7:15pm (200 Hallway)

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