

VBS is almost here!!! It's not too late to help out. We will always need people willing to help decorate, help with crafts, serve snacks, or just be present. I am excited to have the church filled with kids and I am dreading what devious prank they're going to pull on me this year.

I remember VBS growing up. It was such a wonderful time! Every summer we spent what felt like forever in the church playing games, singing songs, and watching skits. The basic outline of VBS hasn't really changed much.

One year the theme was farm. The opening skits and premise were based around a farmer who grew a giant pumpkin (created via an overhead projector). Every day we'd come in and the farmer would talk to us about his giant pumpkin and then we'd go to our lessons.

What was the point of the pumpkin? I don't know. What lessons did we learn? I can't remember. I don't even know why the pumpkin was important!

When we host VBS, or really any big ministry, we have these grand ideas that we will be imparting important life lessons upon the kids. That they will leave our church building wiser in the ways of the Lord. That they will learn Scripture. That their knowledge will increase. We want them to be educated in the ways of faith.

The truth is, though, that often the kids don't remember what we're trying to teach them. They're kids. Many of them don't remember what they had for breakfast that morning, let alone what the theological implications of Joseph's story is. They may be able to recite certain phrases we teach them, but they won't remember the context or the reason why those words matter. And sometimes we'll try to teach them something that even adults would have trouble understanding, so of course it's going to fly over their heads.

I know that's the way it was for me growing up. I honestly can't remember a Sunday School lesson or a VBS curriculum's major points. I don't remember any of the Bible verses that I "memorized." I barely recall a few of the goofier songs we sang with motions.

So, am I saying what we do doesn't matter? Not in the slightest!

For what I remember from VBS is that there were adults who took time out of their day to have fun with me. I remember learning that church wasn't this annoying obligation that I had to do on Sunday morning, but instead a place of fun! Most of all, I remember learning that I was loved and cared for by the people of the church and by God.

Friends, the kids that come into our church may not remember the lessons we have planned for them. And that's okay. For what they will truly learn and remember is way more important than that.

They will remember how they felt. They will remember the smiles that greeted them at the door, the adults who knew their names, the songs they laughed through, and the people who were patient enough to sit beside them, make crafts with them, and cheer them on during games. They will remember that this was a place where they belonged.

Long after the crafts are thrown away and the snacks are forgotten, those memories of being welcomed, valued, and loved can stay with them. Those moments become the foundation on which faith is built.

So, thank you to everyone who gives their time, energy, and creativity to make VBS happen. You may never know the full impact of what you do. A child may forget the Bible verse, the theme, or even the giant pumpkin. But they will remember that the people of this church loved them well. And through that love, they see the love of Christ.

God Bless, Pastor Ed

**Disciples and Dragons Youth Group Is meeting every Sunday  
in July at 6 PM**

**VBS – Snowball Mountain Challenge – Tuesday, July 21 – Friday, July 24  
register now at lakevilleumc.org**

**TOPS Club** meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

**Online giving is available for your convenience  
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org**



**Food Pantry Needs:** pasta sauce, jam & jelly, soups (all kinds) Jiffy muffin mix, cake mix, frostings, Knorr Sides, Hamburger & Tuna Helper, toilet paper, canned fruit, pork & beans, canned pasta, yellow mustard, elbow macaroni, Jello & pudding boxes, taco stuff (shells, sauces) Thank you.

**The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM**

**Sunday Fellowship Time  
Refreshments Schedule**

**July 12 Jeanette July 19 Greg Aug 2 Chris**  
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the  
kitchen door.

**Sunday Kids Church Schedule**

**July 12 Jeanette July 19 Greg Aug 2 Chris**  
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the  
kitchen door.

**Looking Ahead**

**Disciples & Dragons Youth Group will meet every  
Sunday in July 6-8 PM**

**Fellowship Committee Meeting – Monday, July 13, 6:30 PM**

**Food Pantry – Tuesday, July 14, 3-6 PM**

**VBS: Snowball Mountain Challenge  
July 21 - 24 9AM – 11:45 AM  
register now at lakevilleumc.org**

**Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, July 25, 6 PM**

**VBS Sunday – Sunday, July 26, 9:30 AM**

**Food Pantry – Tuesday, July 28, 3-6 PM**