

CHILDREN ARE A GIFT

Our congregation, in all of our ministries with children, youth, and adults, is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. We will be providing every means to insure that all children, youth, and adults entering the doors of our church enter a safe environment where they can sense the love of God, grow in faith, and feel comfortable and safe in all settings.

*“Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from Him.”*

~Psalm 127:3

ALWAYS A PRIORITY

This program will be in place at all times for any program or activity involving infants, children and youth.

- ◆ Training for the Safe Sanctuaries Policy will be provided every fall and as needed throughout the year to accommodate new staff and volunteers

ALWAYS IN PLACE

The Safe Sanctuaries Policy will be followed in any and all Christ UMC facilities and any Christ UMC activities held off site

Safe Sanctuary Policy



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Methodist
Church**

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WHO?

To insure the safety of our children and youth, all adult employees and volunteers who may be alone with children or youth must have a background check and receive an annual training on our Safe Sanctuaries Policy and procedures. People who would need to complete a background check would include the following:

- ◆ Sunday School teachers
- ◆ Substitute Sunday School teachers
- ◆ Nursery workers
- ◆ Youth Group leaders and Volunteers (including drivers)
- ◆ Work Camp leaders
- ◆ Junior Church leaders
- ◆ Children's choir leaders
- ◆ Children and Youth Ministry leaders
- ◆ Good Shepherds
- ◆ Vacation Bible School volunteers
- ◆ Church employee/staff

WHAT?

Christ UMC is pleased to tell you that we are a SAFE SANCTUARIES church. This means that we have chosen to adopt policies set forth by the United Methodist Church regarding child safety. All of these policies are set to protect your children, our volunteers, and our church:

- ◆ Criminal Background checks for all staff and regular volunteers who work with children and/or youth (updated every 3 years)
- ◆ Annual training
- ◆ 6 month rule: before a volunteer is allowed to meet alone with Christ UMC's children or youth, the person must have been a member or active participant in Christ UMC for at least 6 months
- ◆ Young Adult leaders must be at least 5 years older than the youth with whom they are working
- ◆ 2 Adult Rule: Whenever possible, 2 adults should be assigned to all children's and youth activities. If this is not possible, then an adult "Good Shepherd" will be assigned to roam the area throughout the activity
- ◆ Overnight events: 2 or more adults must be present. If the event involves both boys and girls, a male adult and female adult must be present.

HOW?

How will this policy be enacted on Sunday mornings?

In today's times it is simply unsafe to allow children to roam throughout the church building without supervision.

- ◆ All children should be in an age-appropriate class or with you.
- ◆ All children infant through 4th grade will be signed in and out for Sunday School and Nursery.
- ◆ All doors will remain open in all Sunday School Classes.
- ◆ A "Good Shepherd" will walk through the hallways to monitor classes, Junior Church, choir practices, and Nursery between 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. every Sunday.