

Chamblee First United Methodist Church

4147 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Chamblee, GA 30341

Dear Chamblee First Family,

This is an exciting time for our Children's Ministry here at Chamblee First. With new leadership and a new school year beginning, we are looking forward to all that God has in store for our church and for each child who is part of our ministry together. In that spirit of anticipation, we are celebrating our annual tradition of "Com-motion Sunday," during which children are promoted to new Sunday School classes, backpacks are blessed, and third graders receive their Bibles, as "Co-Motion Sunday: Moving Up Together."

This year, instead of just celebrating our children as they move up into different grades in school, we want to celebrate as a congregation the fact that we can all continue to "move up" throughout our lives into different and more challenging ways of knowing and serving God. To that end, we will celebrate in bigger ways with a bouncy house, water slides and games on the lawn; we will also have Big C's Chicago Food Truck serving lunch (free meals for kids & youth)!

We also ask all parents and all those interested in the future of Children's Ministries to join us during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall for a time of vision-casting, goal-setting, and dreaming together. You will have a chance to provide input about your hopes and dreams for our children's ministry, while Children's Council will discuss how families can be involved in supporting Children's Ministry.

We will also make a change to Children's Worship. In order to make the worship hour more meaningful and age-appropriate for all children involved, we will return to the practice of limiting Children's Worship to children ages 3 through 2nd grade. We feel that this will allow our Children's Worship leaders to better prepare age-appropriate curriculum that speaks most effectively to children who might still be too young to sit through a worship service. We will now encourage third through fifth graders to remain in the worship service with their families. We hope that doing so will strengthen family bonds and give families an opportunity to discuss the sermon and scripture together, and will help parents model worshipful behavior and share their own faith more deeply with their children. We also hope that having our older children in worship will allow them more opportunities to serve, so we plan to redevelop our Acolyte program and institute a Children's Greeter program that will give our older children an opportunity to make active contributions to the worship hour. We also ask that all adults make a special effort to help these children feel welcomed and included in the sanctuary. Seek out a child you have never met during our fellowship time and introduce yourself!

Thank you for trusting your children with us. We look forward to growing together as a church family in our knowledge and love of God and in service to one another.

Sincerely,



Kristyl Kepley
Children's Director



Emily Jameson
Children's Council Chair