

Dear friends,

Welcome to the beginning of the Sunday school season here at The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair. I look forward to an outstanding year of praying and playing together as all of us look forward to being together again! As you plan for a year of school and extra-curricular activities, please know that the PCUM staff and church leadership are praying for you and your family.

I wanted to share with all of you some of the activities that are underway in the next few weeks here at the church and invite you and your families to participate in as many of the festivities as possible.

**THIS** Sunday, Sept. 9th, the PCUM church family will have the opportunity to send your kids out into the community and back home with a very special Backpack Blessing. Your child is invited to bring his/her backpack to church and receive a special send off to the school year during the beginning of the worship service. It is always a special feeling when you know that your church family is thinking about you and praying for you as you begin something new and scary and exciting, all at the same time.

The regular Sunday school classes will begin on September 16, 2018. Sunday school is available immediately following the Time with Children during the worship service for those children and youth from 3 years old through 7th grade. I am looking forward to all of your kids gathering here on Sunday mornings to read God's Word, to worship, and to sing God's praises.

The annual "Kick Off Sunday" will be held on September 23, 2018 on the East lawn immediately following the worship service. There will be lots of food, crafts, a bounce house, and a chance to dunk some of your favorite staff members and friends in the ever amusing, back by popular demand, dunk tank. And, of course, a morning of fellowship and a chance to catch up with each other following all of the summer activities will also be on the agenda.

Throughout the year, I want to keep all of you informed of the other great things that will be going on here at the church and want to make sure that I have updated information on your family. Please complete the attached registration form for the 2018-2019 year and return it to me as soon as you are able. The reason for the registration form is primarily so that if any information such as addresses, email addresses, or food allergies have changed, I can change our records here at the church. There is also a photo release attached, giving us permission (or not) to post pictures around the church building as well as on the website. NO names will be included in any publications.

There are other opportunities that your children will have to participate in the worship experience itself. Throughout the year, children are asked to lead worship with prayer, scripture, special Christmas activities, and much more. In addition, your child is invited to be a part of the music program here at PCUM. Your choir directors teach the children about music appreciation, reading music, and voice skills that will follow them

all of their lives. Our three amazing choir directors are here for you and your children. God loves to hear praises sung by the voices of all God's children.

The Joyful Noise Choir is led by Ms. Denise Silecchia and rehearsals are done a few times a month during the Sunday school hour. Children from ages 3 through 1st grade are welcome to participate.

The Children's Choir is led by Ms. Julie Platte and is geared for children in 2nd through 5th grades. Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the choir room here at PCUM.

And, the Youth Choir (6th grade through Sr. High) is led by PCUM Music Director, Ms. Anne Marie Juliano. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. (before Youth Group) in the choir room and Sunday mornings immediately following worship in the sanctuary.

Friday Night Live for the 4th and 5th graders will begin in the fall. This is a fun evening held several times during the year to introduce your children to the youth fellowship programs here at PCUM. It is an evening of Bible study, games, great food and fun. There are so many great ways for children to learn about God's love here at the church. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Once again, please return the 2018-2019 Sunday school registration form to me at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the church office at [973-746-3854](tel:973-746-3854) or call/text me at [732-372-8572](tel:732-372-8572).

Many blessings to you and your families as you prepare for the beginning of the new school year.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Beckhusen, CCE  
Director of Christian Education  
The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair  
53 Norwood Ave  
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043  
973-746-3854 office