



## Safety Guidelines at Christ UMC

To protect our children, youth and Church, please discuss the following guidelines with your family:

- If your child has any type of allergy, please fill out the Allergy Alert form to be posted in their classroom. These forms can be obtained from the church office or found in the Narthex (Gathering Area).
- Children and youth should not be in classrooms without supervision.
- Children and youth are not to be in the parking lot or front sidewalk area without adult supervision.
- Please no running through the bushes and landscaped area. We all work hard to keep God's creation beautiful.
- No children or youth above the 2grade are to be on the preschool playground at ANY time. The playground is geared for very young children with adult supervision.
- Please respect your teachers, adults, your church and classroom – remember this is God's house.
- Teachers should remain with the children they are responsible for until appropriate guardians pick them up.
- We adhere to class supervision of 2 unrelated adults in classrooms, church van, and at offsite church sponsored events.
- Parents still have the ultimate responsibility to monitor the young people they bring to church. Parents are also expected to keep an eye on the young people's safety and whereabouts when not supervised by staff and /or volunteers.

Whether you have children attending CUMC or not, it takes our entire church family to protect our kids. As an adult, if you experience inappropriate behavior, please remind the child of our guidelines. If behavior persists, please contact Barb McElroy, our Safe Sanctuaries Administrator. Parents will then be contacted.

But, Jesus said, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones...it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Our Christian faith calls us to offer both hospitality and protection to the little ones, the children. The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states, "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional and sexual exploitation and abuse" (§ 162C).

So let us all remember that Jesus also said, "Whoever welcomes (a) child...welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). Children are our present and our future, our hope, our teachers, our inspiration. They are full participants in the life of the church and in the realm of God.