



First United Methodist Church of DeKalb

Vacation Bible School

Parent and Camper Handbook

Camp Hours and Location

VBS Schedule 9:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Bus Schedule 8:40 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Walcamp's address is 32653 Five Points Road, Kingston, Illinois. Campers not taking the bus may be dropped off and picked up at Walcamp

Busing Information

→ Those taking the bus will need to be dropped off at the church's north parking lot at **8:40 a.m.** All children and youth must check in with VBS volunteer. **Buses will depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp!**

→ The bus will return to the church parking lot by 3:15 p.m.

→ Please be sure to mark on your child's registration form whether or not your child will be taking the bus, and include any specific information/instructions for bus riding.

→ Only the people listed on the registration form will be authorized to pick up your child. If a person is not listed on the registration form, the person will not be allowed to pick up your child without direct notification from the child's parent. Please contact the director of any pick up changes. We reserve the right to check ID's of people that we do not know.

Rainy Day Info

If weather does **Not** permit us to be outside for camp, your child's Unit Leader will call you about our ½ day schedule.

What Should Campers Wear and Bring Daily

- Appropriate clothes for outside and weather (we are outside all day)
- Camp t-shirt (issued on Day 1, then wear every day thereafter)
- Socks and Gym Shoes (**NO OPEN TOE SHOES OR SANDALS**)
- *****Water bottle with camper's name on it*****
- Sunscreen and bug repellent should be applied before coming to camp
- A draw-string bag or backpack
- Swimsuit and towel—we don't swim everyday but water games are played throughout the week
- A healthy, non-perishable lunch
- Mask



What NOT to Bring

- Toys
- Glass bottles
- Any music listening device
- Video Games
- Anything that can be broken, stolen, lost, or of value
- Cell Phones - We understand many kids of all ages have their own phones, however phone usage is not allowed once campers/youth are on the bus to camp until they are off the return bus at church.

Health Policies

Campers/Youth attending Vacation Bible School, must be free of the following illness or symptoms for at least 24 hours:

- Fever (without fever reducing medicines)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Colored nasal drainage
- Any unexplained rash
- Any contagious skin or eye infections

**We understand that information regarding COVID-19 is ever changing and updating. We will continue to monitor the CDC, First Student Bus, and Walcamp's regulations and guidelines for COVID. Please watch for texts through the Remind App for updates prior to the week of camp as well as during VBS week. Sign up for text alerts by texting the number 81010 then in message type @umcv




→ If your child has any symptoms related to COVID-19, please keep your child at home (a list of childhood symptoms can be found at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-in-babies-and-children/art-20484405>)

→ If your child has been around anyone who has been recently diagnosed with COVID-19, please keep your child at home




→ Adults visiting Vacation Bible School will be required to contact the director one (1) day prior to attending camp

→ Adults visiting Vacation Bible School will be required to wear a mask anytime that adult is around the campers




Leaders' Responsibilities at Camp:

-  Hand sanitizer/wipes will be readily available at each station and with each adult leader
-  Remind campers to keep physical distance and wear masks when need
-  Adults will wear masks while in close contact with campers

Camper/Youth Responsibilities at Camp:

-  Wear mask on bus and when required at Walcamp
-  Follow adult leaders' instructions for mask wearing and physical distancing
-  Tell a parent if not feeling well before leaving for camp. Tell adult leader if not feeling well at camp.

Parent Responsibilities:

-  Perform daily health check on campers/youth prior to camp time
-  Make sure camper/youth has a mask for bus and camp
-  Inform director if your camper/youth will not be at camp (815-761-1801)

First Aid and Medical Emergency Policy

If your child is injured, we will take the necessary steps to obtain medical care. The steps may include, but are not limited to:

- Administering General First Aid
- Contacting Emergency response personnel and or transporting to Hospital
- Contacting parent(s) or guardian(s) and/or Emergency Contacts

A First UMC volunteer will accompany the child to the hospital until a parent or guardian arrives

Medication at Camp

If your child requires medication during camp hours, please call the Director of Christian Education at (815) 756-6301 prior to camp for arrangements. Please DO NOT send any medications with the camper in his/her backpack or lunch; find an adult VBS volunteer at bus drop-off to hand the medicine to. If your child arrives at camp without sunscreen and/or bug repellent, the unit leader will apply it to your child.

Videos/Photographs

As a program participant of First UMC Vacation Bible School, your child may be filmed/photographed during his/her activities at camp. We may use these videos/photos periodically in our brochure, newsletter, website or other publications. If you have any objections to the use of your child's video/photo, please indicate your objections on the registration form.

VBS Discipline

At First United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School, we aim to teach and model the love of God towards each other while providing a fun and safe environment for children of all ages. Therefore, we give encouragement freely and use criticism sparingly. In order to do this, the leadership team has established a set of rules. We ask you, the parents and guardians, to read the following rules with your child and encourage your child to abide by the following rules:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Talk in an appropriate, respectful manner.
3. Respect Unit, Station, and Crew leaders as well as Walcamp staff.
4. Be considerate of others' feelings and belongings.
5. Name-calling, teasing, or the use of any inappropriate language is never acceptable.
6. There will be no hitting, kicking, or fighting.
7. Abide by all safety rules.

Failure to abide by these rules will result in an initial warning, and, depending on the violation, followed by these consequences:

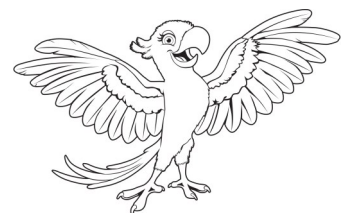
- 1. A first violation will result in a "warning" and an individual conference with VBS leadership.**
- 2. A second violation will result in a conference between the VBS Director and the parent/guardian.**
- 3. In the event of further violation, the participant will be sent home for the remainder of the week.**

Every incident will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and consequences will be determined by the severity of an incident. Suspension will only take place in the most extreme cases and at the discretion of the VBS Director.

If you have any questions, please call the **church** at **815-756-6301**, or if you need to reach me on camp days, my **cell #** is **815-761-1801**. On behalf of all the leaders and volunteers at VBS, thank you for allowing your child to spend the week with us.

You are treasured!

~ Nancy Melms, Director of Christian Education





First United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School Parent and Camper Handbook Signature Form

Please sign and return this page with completed registration form.

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Handbook* and have read it to my child(ren)
- I have read and understand the Health Policies and will perform a daily health check on my campers/youth before sending them to camp. I will also follow all health policies if I visit camp.

Parent signature date

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Handbook* with my parent or guardian
- I am responsible for telling my parent/guardian if I am not feeling well before going to camp each day

#1 Camper/Youth signature **date**

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Handbook* with my parent or guardian
- I am responsible for telling my parent/guardian if I am not feeling well before going to camp each day

#2 Camper/Youth signature **date**

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Handbook* with my parent or guardian
- I am responsible for telling my parent/guardian if I am not feeling well before going to camp each day

#3 Camper/Youth signature **date**

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Handbook* with my parent or guardian
- I am responsible for telling my parent/guardian if I am not feeling well before going to camp each day

#4 Camper/Youth signature **date**

