



July 11-15

First United Methodist Church of DeKalb
Vacation Bible School
Parent and Camper Information Packet

Welcome Parents and Happy Campers

Welcome to Monumental Vacation Bible School where we are going to explore God’s vast power and His deep love **JULY 11-15**. We are heading to **Walcamp**, a Christian Education facility, to experience this unique outdoor VBS.

THIS YEAR

- Welcome back preschoolers! Children ages 4&5 are invited to join us for 1/2 days Monday-Thursday, and a full day on Friday for our Preschool Program.

- Full-day program is open to those entering first grade through seventh grade as campers, and eighth grade through college for youth leaders.

- YAY! We will have our traditional, family picnic on Friday this year. Preschoolers are welcome to join us for the picnic and afternoon games. Parents are also welcome to come out and join their campers for lunch and stay the afternoon for fun and games. Please look for REMIND texts (information below) throughout VBS week for information regarding the picnic.

Camp Hours and Location

Elementary Campers and Youth Leaders

Preschool

VBS Schedule 9:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

VBS Schedule 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs: 9:15-2:45 Fri

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

Bus Schedule 8:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mon-Thurs: 3:15 on Friday

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 the VBS volunteer. **Buses will depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp!**

→ The bus will return to the church parking lot by 12:30 for preschoolers (Mon-Thurs) and 3:15 p.m. for elementary and youth every day (and Fri for preschoolers.)

→ **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 (ex. Not taking the bus on certain days.)**

→ 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.

COMMUNICATION

- **REMIND APP**—You will need to sign up for the Remind App to receive daily reminders during the week of VBS. To register for this handy and convenient service, text the number **81010**, then in message type **@umcv** This is our main way to communicate throughout the week of VBS, so please register to receive text notices. You do not need to download the app to receive text messages.

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.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Included with this mailing is a family Registration Form.
- If your camper is a youth volunteer (eighth grade through college age) an extra form is included regarding registration for **CREW LEADER TRAINING**. Please include Crew Leader Training form when returning the registration form.
- Please make sure you read through and fill out all the information included, then sign and return Registration Form, Information Packet Signature Form, and Youth Training Form.
- Please be sure to mark on the Registration form if your family would like to receive a music CD from this year's VBS.
- **Early Bird Registration** –You will get a \$5 discount per camper/youth if you register on or before May 31st.
- **Final deadline** for registration is **JUNE 29**. This is a later deadline, so please note that any registration that is turned in after this deadline will not be guaranteed a spot.

ONLINE REGISTRATION is OPEN

- to register and pay, go to www.firstumc.net and click on the VBS picture on the slide show; this will take you to the registration and payment form.

- to just make a payment online, go to www.firstumc.net and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click “e-giving”, from there click on “choose a fund” box and scroll down to Vacation Bible School—please submit a hard copy of registration form to the main office.

What Should Campers Wear and Bring Daily

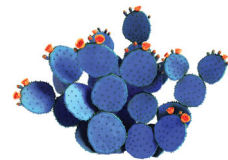
- Appropriate clothes for outside and weather (we are outside all day)
- Camp t-shirt (issued on Day 1, then wear **every day** thereafter)
- Socks and Gym Shoes (**NO OPEN TOE SHOES OR SANDALS**)
- *****Water bottle with camper's name on it*****
- Sunscreen and bug repellent should be applied before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



**Please send both drawstring bag and backpack with your child each day. Please note on the signature form if you would like FUMC to provide a drawstring bag for your child(ren) on the first day

What NOT to Bring

- Toys/video games
- Glass bottles
- 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.



Kids Buying “Kids”

We are excited to join First United Methodist Church's Mission Team to collect coins for our new missionaries in Mexico. One of the great programs the missionaries have is providing baby goats, or “kids”, to families. This goat can provide needed nutrition with its milk and can be the start of a herd - which provides a way for a family to have income.

- Campers, youth, and adults are invited to bring coins (and bills) each day to VBS
- Every day we will learn about the many different ways the missionaries are accomplishing great works in Mexico
- Look for REMIND texts for updates about how successful our collection is going throughout the week

“How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!” (Psalm 147:5)

First Aid, Medical Emergency, and Health Policies

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

- Administer general first aid
- Contacting emergency response personnel and/or transporting to a hospital
- Contacting parent(s)/guardian(s) or emergency contact
- A First UMC volunteer will accompany the child to the hospital until a parent/guardian arrives

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

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

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 adult unit leader will apply it to your child upon arrival at camp.

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 them:

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.

Awesome God!

~ Nancy Melms, Director of Christian Education





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

Please sign and return this page with completed registration form.

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Information Packet* and have read it to my child(ren)
- I am requesting drawstring bag(s) for my child(ren). I will need # _____ of bags.
- I DO NOT need drawstring bag from the church, I will send my camper/youth with a backpack and drawstring bag they already have

Parent signature date

- I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Information Packet* 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 Information Packet* with my parent or guardian
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