



Parent Letter for the 2024-2025 Preschool Year

Westminster United Presbyterian Church is pleased to sponsor a preschool for the children of the community. In the fall of 2024, we will offer a two-day, 3-year-old program. Classes will be offered on Thursday and Friday mornings, as well as Thursday and Friday afternoons. We will also offer a three-day, 4/5-year-old program. Classes will be offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, as well as Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

As a Christian preschool, the children will learn about the church's celebrations of Christmas and Easter. They will also have opportunities to hear Bible stories throughout the year and learn to pray. Our preschool will nurture your child's social and emotional growth, compassion and empathy for others, as well as your child's natural desire to learn more about the world around him/her through play and music/movement. Learning centers are provided to help your child develop in the following areas: ABC work, writing, math, science, dramatic play, blocks, library books, art, puzzles, sensory/fine motor and more.

The Four and Five-Year-Old Class:

To register for the 4/5-year-old program, the child must be four years old by September 1st of the registration year. The 4/5-year-old morning class will meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The afternoon class will meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For your convenience, the tuition is divided into nine monthly payments. The monthly tuition rate is \$165. (hourly rate~\$6.13 x 2.5 hours/day = \$15.31 per day) This is based on our current Preschool calendar, which follows the Seneca Valley School District calendar.

The Three-Year-Old Class:

To register for the 3-year-old program, the child must be three years old by September 1st of the registration year. The 3-year-old morning class will meet on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The afternoon class will meet on Thursday and Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For your convenience, the tuition is divided into nine monthly payments. The monthly tuition rate is \$125. (hourly rate~\$7.50 x 2.5 hours/day = \$18.75 per day) This is based on our current Preschool calendar, which follows the Seneca Valley School District calendar.

***We reserve the right to change class schedules due to low or increased enrollment.*

School Year Calendar:

The 4/5-year-old class will attend Monday, September 9, 2024 through Wednesday, May 21, 2025. The 3-year-old class will attend Thursday, September 12, 2024 through Friday, May 23, 2025.

The WUP Preschool follows the Seneca Valley School District calendar and decisions for all holidays and closings. You will be provided with a list of the scheduled closings.

Registration Checklist:

Please submit the following documents and fees to reserve your child's placement:

- Completed registration form
- A copy of your child's birth certificate
- Updated immunization records
- A copy of your child's health insurance card (in case of an emergency)
- Custodial agreements or court-appointed guardianship documents (if applicable)
- \$45.00 non-refundable registration fee to Westminster UPC
- September's Tuition (non-refundable after July 1, 2024)

***The above documentation is required for the health and safety of students and staff. Please contact the preschool with any questions or concerns.*

Tuition Payments:

All checks are to be made payable to Westminster UPC with "Preschool" and your child's name on the memo line. The September tuition payment is due upon registration. The remaining eight tuition payments are due, one month in advance, by the first of each month September 2024 through April 2025.

In the event of a late payment, notice will be given after the fifth of the month. A late fee may be applied to any payments received after the tenth of each month. If your child is absent part or all of any month, the fee is still charged, reserving your child's space in the program. This includes Covid related absences or closings, and SV closings due to high levels of illness.

Any tuition that is paid with insufficient funds must be paid in full within one week of notification plus an additional \$10 fee to reimburse Westminster Church for bank fees.

Enrollment in each class is limited. There is a waiting list for any full classes. A non-refundable **\$45.00** registration fee is required at the time of registration.

Financial Assistance:

1. The WUP Preschool offers the Austin Dean Flint Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance. To apply, please contact the Preschool Director for more information.
2. Multi-Child Discount: If you have more than one child enrolled in our programs within the same school year, the youngest child will receive a 30% discount on the monthly tuition rate.

Additional Information:

All children must be potty trained before attending school. Children must be able to independently show initiative to use the bathroom, be able to dress/undress, and be able to clean themselves with minimal assistance. We understand that accidents happen, and we are prepared to handle those situations with care.

All teachers have criminal background checks concurrent with Pennsylvania law and Westminster Personnel Policies.

**Westminster Preschool
Communicable Disease Policy**

Westminster Presbyterian Church endeavors to create a safe environment for all children and youth, and pledges to continually seek ways to create a safer building and environment for children's programming.

* * *

Westminster Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a safe and healthy place for children and adults to grow in the Christian faith, and we do so from our distinctive Presbyterian and Reformed traditions. These traditions affirm God's gift of the intellect and science to further God's purposes. Medical science provides for the growth and health of children, protects against disease and death, and medical procedures are used to intervene when appropriate to prolong life.

We have a theological, moral, and ethical imperative to especially protect children and immunocompromised adults from disease because they are most vulnerable. Our commitment leads us to offer a healthy environment for the children who attend the preschool and the adults in leadership positions. That commitment includes ensuring that communicable diseases are not transmitted to those using or visiting the preschool.

Therefore, it is the policy of Westminster Presbyterian Church that all children enrolled in the Westminster Preschool are immunized against the diseases listed in Pa. Code. § 23.83- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; Poliomyelitis; Measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella (German measles); Hepatitis B; Varicella (chickenpox).

(Extra Cleaning and Special Practices):

Due to the ongoing COVID variants and an increase in other viral illnesses, we have implemented extra cleaning practices before, during and after preschool. Highly touched surfaces will be sanitized frequently. Donations of hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, Lysol disinfectant spray and any other cleaning supplies are greatly appreciated.

We ask that pick-up and drop-off occur outside of the building. Upon arrival the children will get their temperatures taken and sanitize their hands. The children and teachers have the option to wear masks. Adults and children will be mindful of washing hands and using hand sanitizer frequently throughout the preschool day. As always if your child is sick, (coughing excessively, vomiting, has diarrhea, a fever or a sore throat) keep him or her home. Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked not to attend preschool that day and must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication in order to return to school.

The WUP Preschool follows the Seneca Valley School District. If the school district cancels all in-person classes, the WUP Preschool will as well. The preschool will not conduct classes virtually. We will be on a temporary break. Our classes will resume once the school district has in-person classes.

Parents must notify preschool staff if the child, or any family member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. If you are feeling sick or your child is feeling sick and there is a possibility your illness could be related to COVID-19 or its variants, do not come to the preschool and do not bring your child to the preschool. Notify the preschool staff immediately for guidance on when your child will be able to return. If a preschooler tests positive for COVID-19 or its variants, he/she will need to stay home for 5 days. When the child returns, he/she will need to wear a mask until 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Parent/Guardian shall sign the Westminster United Presbyterian Church and Preschool COVID-19 Program Waiver attached to enrollment forms.

We please ask that all families be understanding and flexible during this challenging time as we may have to adapt our policies according to the transmission rates in Butler County and/or the recommendations provided by the CDC. Thank you!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns regarding the information provided. Additional information is available upon request.

Tara Weisgerber
Director/Lead Teacher
Westminster United Presbyterian Preschool



Dear Families,

My name is Tara Weisgerber, and I am the Director/Lead Teacher of the Westminster United Presbyterian Preschool. My husband, Chip, and I have been happily married for 24 years. We have two boys: Andy (19) and David (13). I am originally from Cambridge, Ohio where I grew up on a small farm. After graduating from Cambridge High School in 1993, I attended Muskingum College. In 1997, I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Music. My Ohio certifications include Pre-K, Elementary grades 1-8 and Specific Learning Disabilities grades K-12. I taught for 16 years in Ohio. During those years I taught preschool, middle school and high school inclusion, and fourth grade. I wanted to be the best possible teacher I could be for my students, so I went back to school for a Master of Education degree from Urbana University in 2002.

Beyond the classroom, my teaching extended into the Presbyterian Church where Chip and I teamed up to work with kids of all ages. Life became even more fun in 2004 when our son, Andrew, was born. Our family continued to grow as David arrived in 2010.

When an opportunity came along for Chip's work, we decided to move to Tennessee. It was an adventure! I was able to stay home with David (age 3). It was the first time I had not worked outside of the home. We were blessed to be a part of rebuilding Cub Scout Pack 508. We joined Covenant United Methodist Church where I volunteered in the Children's Ministry. Later, I tutored in David's kindergarten class and started subbing for the elementary school.

We continued to enjoy sharing our music with our church, but we also enjoyed new adventures as a family. Tennessee was the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors. We explored the trails of Cumberland Gap and the Smoky Mountains. Spending time on Norris Lake with friends and seeing the wildlife at Cades Cove were moments to remember. Camping near Gatlinburg, TN was our absolute favorite! At the same time, David was enjoying soccer, and Andy was involved with Cub Scouts.

As much as we loved Tennessee, in 2017 it was time for us to be closer to our family once again. We happily settled in Harmony, PA. Chip is employed with La Roche University. David continues to play soccer for the SV North travel team and BC United while he also enjoys playing bass clarinet at SV. Andy attends Ohio Wesleyan University majoring in genetics with a pre-med track. We found our new church home with Westminster UPC and enjoy being involved with the children's and youth ministry. As a family, we still love to camp and try new activities such as kayaking. We have also added a furry member to our family. Nala is a 3-year-old golden retriever/husky rescue whom we adore.

After helping the boys get settled into their new routines, I had the pleasure to work for the Royhab Child Care Center. I will always treasure my time with the RCC families and the memories we have made together. I have certainly missed working with those families and watching their precious children grow. However, I am excited and thankful to serve the families of Westminster United Presbyterian Preschool for a 4th year! I look forward to welcoming each of you into the WUP Preschool family.