

## **Welcome to First United Methodist Church Preschool**

FUMC Preschool is an engaging Christian preschool located in the heart of downtown Saint Petersburg. We are open from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm daily with our preschool calendar mirroring that of the Pinellas County Public School System. Thus, we are closed during Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks and the Monday after Easter. We provide quality care for 113 children ages 2-5 years old with Morning only and Full-Day options. Our Summer Camp of six weeks is for children ages 3-5 years old.

Our enrollment is ongoing with most entering at the beginning of our Instructional year in August. Please schedule a tour with us in the mornings between 9:30-11:30 am. We are glad you are interested in FUMC Preschool. It is a place where laughter soars, discovery abounds and wiggling and giggling are celebrated!

### **What makes FUMC Preschool so unique and special?**

FUMC Preschool is a fantastic place for children because we are First United Methodist Church. Our families feel welcome to attend worship if they so desire and our children have Chapel once a week with our Pastoral & Church Children's Ministry Staff. Our Preschool staff is wonderful! They are educated and passionate persons who meet all PCLB requirements along with background screening -Lead teachers have a CDA/FCCPC or college degree/coursework in Early Childhood Education and all take 10+ hours of in-service training a year. Our staff are dedicated to enjoying each day with your child and creating a room environment full of discovery and age-appropriate activity. Our playground has room to run, provides shade under a large oak tree and has room to explore. Our classrooms have children's creative artwork on the walls and bright windows for the world to shine in. Our programming includes family events and projects, as well as music and movement, private pay Soccer Shots and Dance, and fine motor and large motor daily activities.

FUMC Preschool is planned with a keen awareness of the special characteristics, needs, interests and way of learning of the preschool child. With loving teachers, FUMC seeks to promote the child's spiritual, physical, intellectual and social-emotional maturity in an atmosphere which reflects Christian values. We offer a lower student/teacher ratio with an assistant teacher in every classroom. We provide a loving caring, family-like atmosphere where children are happy to participate in a nurturing learning environment. It is never too early to teach diversity to our children. FUMC Preschool promotes diversity by welcoming children into our classrooms equally, while also respecting their differences. We help our students learn that, while we have many notable differences on the outside, we also have many similarities. To further develop, we explore cultural traditions. We play music with words from different languages, make art projects that introduce concepts from other cultures and read stories that expose students to children from around the world. Every child is born with creative potential, but this may be stifled if care is not taken to nurture and stimulate creativity. FUMC preschool teachers promote creative development by providing art activities that explore various media and encourage imagination, independence and individuality.

We welcome you to read through our Parent Handbook to become familiar with the policies that promote our age-appropriate and engaging environment for the growth and development of children under our care.