

Welcome to the Nursery at Wesley United Methodist Church!



Please read the following information about our nursery, so that both you and your children will feel secure while they are in our care. Please do not hesitate to contact the Nursery Coordinator, Laura Hawkins, at 815-985-7061 or nursery@macombwesleyumc.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Nursery Purpose

Our nursery supports parents by providing a safe, Christian atmosphere for the youngest members of our church family during scheduled worship services and Sunday School, as well as other church-wide events and small group meetings as needed. We strive to help our children build trusting relationships and feel a sense of belonging by reaching out in love and understanding.

Nursery Hours and Ages

- Nursery care is available Sundays, from 8:15am to 12:15pm, in Room U21.
- While the nursery is intended for our youngest church-goers (birth through 5 years old/kindergarten), we recognize that the needs of each family are unique and will help serve those needs whenever possible.
- The nursery opens 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the church function and closes promptly 15 minutes after the event is over.
- Nursery care may be available for other church functions (committee meetings, events, etc.) if two or more families with children ages birth through 5th grade request the service by calling the church office in advance.

Arrival and Departure

- Parents will complete a registration form yearly to allow us to better care for your children.
- We highly recommend that parents download the *Wesley UMC of Macomb* app which can be used to quickly and easily check your children in to the nursery:
 - Open the app and click on your profile picture in the upper right hand corner.
 - Click on "Check-in QR code" and select the Nursery event.
 - Select which children you are checking in.
- Check-in can also be done using the provided tablet in the nursery:
 - Type in your phone number or email. Select which children you are checking in.
- If needed, caregivers will contact parents by text. We recommend keeping your phone close by and on silent/vibrate.
- Please communicate any special instructions or relevant information with the Nursery Coordinator when you drop off your child.
- If you are leaving a diaper bag, please make sure it is labeled with your child's name and place it in a cubby. Items in the diaper bag should also be labeled if possible.
- ***To ensure the safety of each child, the nursery will only release your child to those people listed on your registration form. If there is any question, we will ask for the security code issued to the person who checked the child in using the app.***

Other Information

- Please remain on church property while your child is in nursery care.
- We encourage you to take your potty-trained children to the bathroom before entering the nursery.
- If your child is not potty-trained, please provide disposable diapers, pull-ups, or underwear, as well as wipes and an extra change of clothes in case of an accident.
- Bottles will only be given to infants. Please prepare these ahead of time if you would like us to feed your infant.
- Snacks (crackers, fruit snacks, etc.) and water are available for those children who are permitted to have them.
- Toys and surfaces are cleaned and sanitized/disinfected after use. Mouthed toys are removed immediately until they can be cleaned and sanitized.

Behavior Management

- Children's behavior while in the nursery will be managed in a positive, proactive manner that will protect their self-esteem.
- In order to maintain a safe and nurturing environment, children are expected to follow all directions of the caregivers. Parents can help by discussing this expectation with their child prior to signing in.
- Any incidents considered noteworthy (eg., play injuries, disciplinary issues, etc.) will be reported to the Nursery Coordinator immediately, who will complete an incident report and communicate with the parents. Parents will be contacted immediately in the event of a major incident. Copies of incident reports will be given to the parents of children involved as well as kept on file.
- Every effort will be made to soothe a crying infant or child. If a child is inconsolable, the parent will be contacted to assist.

Safety and Security

- In accordance with our Safe Sanctuaries policies, our nursery will always have at least two caregivers present and will maintain a 1:4 caregiver to child ratio.
- We will always have at least one caregiver on duty who is over 18 years old and who has been certified in CPR and basic First Aid.
- All caregivers over 18 years old have completed state and federal background checks.
- If the church must be evacuated, the nursery's emergency meeting spot is the Calhoun Street parsonage lawn. Please meet us there after you have exited the building.

Wellness Policy

In consideration of everyone, please keep sick children at home. A child with the following symptoms (currently or within the last 24 hours) should not be brought to the nursery:

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| ● Fever of 100 degrees | ● Any symptom of a childhood disease, such as scarlet fever, German measles, mumps, chickenpox, etc. |
| ● Diarrhea or vomiting | ● Boils, ringworm, impetigo, etc. |
| ● Significant, persistent nasal drainage which is green or yellow in color | ● Covid-19 or similar contagious disease not otherwise listed |
| ● Severe coughing and/or a sore throat | ● A child's first 24 hours on antibiotics |
| ● Pink eye or other eye infections | |
| ● Head lice | |
| ● Any unexplained rash or skin infection | |

Nursery caregivers cannot administer any medications, prescribed or over-the-counter. If your child develops an infectious disease after they have been in the nursery, please contact the Nursery Coordinator so that we may notify other parents of their child's exposure.