Trinity Preschool & Parents' Morning Out: Strengthening Connections Between the Preschool, Church, and Community

For nearly 80 years, Trinity Preschool & Parents' Morning Out has been an important outreach ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church, serving young children and families within our community. Through its long-standing reputation for providing a loving, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate early childhood education, the Preschool creates meaningful connections between Trinity and families who may not otherwise have a relationship with the church.

As Trinity looks toward the future, the Preschool has a unique opportunity to support the church's strategic priorities of **Connection, Discipleship, and Sustainability** by continuing to build relationships with young families and strengthening the connection between the Preschool and the larger church community.

Opportunities for Collaboration

- **Strengthening Family Connections:** Explore welcoming, intentional ways to introduce Preschool families to church-sponsored activities such as Fall Fest, Spring Fest, family gatherings, Preschool Parent Coffee Chats, and community celebrations. These opportunities should be invitational and inclusive, recognizing that Preschool families come from a variety of religious backgrounds.
- **Community Outreach and Service:** Continue supporting opportunities for young children and families to participate in age-appropriate service projects, charitable giving, and community outreach. These experiences reinforce the values of kindness, compassion, generosity, and caring for others that are already central to the Preschool's philosophy.
- **Building Relationships:** Encourage communication and collaboration between Preschool leadership and appropriate church ministries to identify natural opportunities for connection, particularly those that serve young children and families.
- **Supporting Long-Term Sustainability:** Recognize the Preschool as an established and valued ministry that contributes to Trinity's presence, reputation, and relationships within the greater Richmond community. Continued support of the Preschool's educational programming, facilities, and operational needs is an investment in Trinity's future.

Preserving the Preschool's Primary Mission

As we explore these opportunities, it is essential that Trinity Preschool & Parents' Morning Out remain focused on its primary mission: providing high-quality early childhood education in a loving, nurturing, safe, and developmentally appropriate environment.

The Preschool's success is built upon its dedicated teachers, strong relationships with families, and commitment to meeting the individual developmental needs of young children. These priorities must remain at the forefront of all decisions involving the Preschool.

Any additional church initiatives or collaborative opportunities should complement the Preschool's existing programs rather than create additional expectations or responsibilities for teachers and staff. Church-sponsored activities should be planned and supported primarily through church staff, ministry teams, and congregational volunteers, with Preschool leadership participating in a collaborative and advisory capacity when appropriate.

The success of the Preschool as an outreach ministry should be measured first by the quality of its educational program, the well-being of the children it serves, and the trust and relationships it builds with families, not by the number of families who become involved in church membership or worship.

Strengthening Preschool Governance and Accountability

Trinity Preschool & Parents' Morning Out is currently developing updated bylaws to provide a clear framework for its governance, leadership, and operations. These bylaws are being developed with consideration for the Preschool's role as an outreach ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church and its accountability within the church's organizational structure, including Church Council.

The updated bylaws will help clarify the roles and responsibilities of Preschool leadership and the Preschool Committee, establish clear lines of communication and accountability, and support informed decision-making.

This effort directly aligns with Trinity's strategic priority of strengthening leadership and governance while recognizing the Preschool's unique educational mission and the importance of maintaining appropriate oversight of its day-to-day operations.

Our goal is to ensure that the Preschool continues to operate effectively and responsibly while remaining a strong, valued ministry of Trinity UMC for generations to come.

Moving Forward Together

The Preschool and Trinity UMC share a commitment to serving children, supporting families, and strengthening our community. By respecting the Preschool's distinct educational mission while identifying thoughtful opportunities for connection, we can build upon an already successful ministry and support Trinity's vision for future generations.

Katie Swartz- Preschool Director Oct. 23, 2026