

Welcome to



Parent Information

First United Methodist Church Cleburne

The staff of *The Garden* of First United Methodist Church Cleburne would like to share our vision for our children and rooms. We are committed to the children and their walk with God. Our desire is for the children to feel, see, and hear the love of Christ while with us. We, also, want you to feel confident that we will use the latest and most well-proven ideas to help your child in this amazing journey.

Let us tell you about us:

<p>When is <i>The Garden</i> open?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all services. • For Bible studies. (Let the study leader know you need us.) • During all Wednesday activities. • For VBS and Children’s Ministries’ Summer Camps. • For church training (advance notice needed). • For meetings (advance notice needed). • For special services.
<p>Who is welcome in <i>The Garden</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During regular church services: birth to age 5, or not yet in kindergarten. • During Sunday school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth to age 2: in the Caterpillar Room. • Age 2 and 3: meet in the Family Center, then we go to the Butterfly Room. • During Bible studies and meetings: birth to children who have not yet started junior high/middle school.
<p>What happens when you get to <i>The Garden</i> doors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will meet you at the door. • We will take your bag and your child. • We will tell your little one to say, “See you in a little while.” • We will take attention away from you and onto the activity we are doing. • While we are getting settled in, you can fill out needed paperwork, and leave it in the information pocket on the upper door. <p>(If you are dropping off at the Family Center, please go to The Garden sign-in table and fill out the sign-in sheet. You may leave it in the information pocket on the upper door.)</p>
<p>Why do you not come in and put your own bag away?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have found that it makes for a safer space when we limit the big people in the room. • The children are less confused when we limit people going into and out of the room. • The chance of children running through legs and out the door are limited.
<p>What do we do while in <i>The Garden</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sing about God, Jesus, love, friendship, etc. • We hear Christ-filled stories. • We do Christ-filled activities. • We do Christian crafts. • We look at Christian objects. • We show love and joy. • We pray.

<p>Can you visit <i>The Garden</i> while your child is in it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We love how much you love your child! Part of that love should include making sure your child is happy and safe. Our suggestion is that you peep through the window without being seen by your child. • We have found that children become upset when they see a parent, because they assume it is time to get picked up. When that doesn't happen, they become confused and will lose trust in us and you. We don't want that to happen. We want them to know that we will keep our promises to them. One of those promises is that the person who brought them will be back soon.
<p>Can you tour <i>The Garden</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes! As soon as all children have been dismissed, you are more than welcome to come in and check us out. • Let the Nursery Coordinator know when and we can show you all the wonderful parts of our rooms that can't be seen from the doors.
<p>Can you volunteer in <i>The Garden</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes! We love volunteer gardeners and can schedule you to volunteer at any time. • We follow <i>Safe Sanctuary</i> rules which requires all volunteers get a background check prior to working with the children. (You may receive a copy of the <i>Safe Sanctuary Policy</i> from the Nursery staff, the Director of Children's Ministries, or the church office.)
<p>What do you do when it is time to pick up your child?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simply knock on the door. • We will gather all your child and all his/her belongings. We will take them to you at the door. • We will encourage your child to tell you about the day.
<p>What if something happens to your child while in <i>The Garden</i>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child gets a small "ouch," we will make a report and tell you about it when you pick him/her up. • If your child is more seriously injured, we will call your cell phone number on the sign-in sheet and ask that you return to the room. • We will do the same should your child become ill. • In the case of a true emergency, "911" will be called, proper actions will be taken, and you will be retrieved from wherever you may be. • This is why a current information sheet is so important.
<p>Does <i>The Garden</i> have a Health Policy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we do: for the welfare of all, parents are heartily encouraged <u>not</u> to bring sick children to church. Children will not be accepted in the classroom if they have any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasal discharge (other than a minimal, clear discharge) • Any discharge or matter around the eyes • Fever (must be fever-free for 48 hours without fever-reducing medication) • Rash • Inflamed throat and/or mouth • Coughing or sneezing • Head lice • Open wounds without proper bandages • Unusually listless or irritable behavior <p>Children being treated with antibiotics should be on the drug for at least 48 hours.</p>

Are the Gardeners trained?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have First Aid training. • At least one person in each room has been trained in CPR and the use of the defibrillator, which is located in the church hall. • We have <i>Safe Sanctuary</i> training. • We have training in evacuation and storm preparation. • We have training in Early Childhood education. • We have training in music. • We have training for children with special needs. (We have training in tube feeding and G-buttons.)
How do we make <i>The Garden</i> grow?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a partnership between gardeners, parents, and grandparents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At times, we may ask for snacks or a few small items to keep <i>The Garden</i> growing. These items will be listed on the bulletin board, as needed. If you feel the need, feel free to mark it off. • Sharing the fruit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If information about a subject is sent home, please take a few minutes each day to remind your little sprout about the subject. • Tending <i>The Garden</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you see issues, please report them. Every garden has weeds, but we can't pull them if we can't see them. If your issue is with the Nursery Coordinator, please feel free to talk with the Coordinator directly or the Children's Ministries Director. • Any changes made are done to make <i>The Garden</i> grow stronger. As your child grows, so do we.
EMERGENCY EVACUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please evacuate with the other people around you. We will have your child. Our route will probably not be the same as yours, as we have our own evacuation doors. It is safer for everyone to follow the designated route. • Our job is to care for your child and to do everything in our power to protect them. • We will find you at the appropriate time and place.

Head Gardeners: Nursery Coordinator, Beverly Doran: beverly@fumccleburne.com
Director of Children's Ministries, Alan Reed: alan@fumccleburne.com
Church office: 817-645-6392

First United Methodist Church Cleburne
Physical Address: 1300 W. Westhill Drive
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 114
Cleburne, Texas 76033
www.fumccleburne.com