

## **EMT Report to Voters**

*September 19, 2020*

### **Covid-19 Reopening**

We continue to remain thankful to the Covid Task Force for all their work in reopening our facility. We have invested in additional cleaning equipment and supplies, put in place procedures for various types of activities, and slowly added back some on-campus activities. This includes some small groups for Bible study, prayer group, Adult Bible classes, occasional meetings, and a few outside groups.

### **Preschool Reopening**

Our Preschool has reopened with good enrollment. There has been quite a bit of turnover among our students and staff, however. Two staff—Head Teacher Angela Crocker and Assistant Teacher Debbie Kopec—stepped down because of changing school schedules with their own children. Another Head Teacher (Andrea Fabian) moved to South Carolina. Three Assistant Teachers have moved up into Head Teacher positions: Karin McGowan (2s), Darcy Fesmire (3-day 3s), Katie Swanekamp (2-day 3s). In addition, we have hired three additional staff: Tracy Bramwell, Michelle Helles, and Heather Reed to round out our team.

23 students dropped out because of Covid-related concerns, but an additional 13 took their spots. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our families and their students this year. We have also made contingency plans should we need to close mid-year again.

### **Vacation Bible School**

We made the decision to move VBS online in response to Covid. We were able to take what we learned with FT Kids Sunday School during the early weeks of Covid and apply it to VBS. Karen Pritchard, Patti Plotner, and Erin Anthony did a great job leading kids into God's Word while interacting with them via YouTube Chat. Jaime Christ, Brenda Floriano, and Jenna Tomeny recorded a separate track for Preschool children. Addison Christ, Madison Kopec, Sydney McHugh, and Phoebe Risch, all completing 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, were able to serve as song leaders in-person. A "virtual crew" of five students—Isaac Fesmire, Mackenzie Wert, Owen Roberts, Jennifer Pritchard, and Maria Mis—led kids "around the building" virtually from station to station. A big thanks to VBS Director Tracy Bramwell and her team of volunteers for making all this happen.

### **Online Worship**

We have continued to engage with people in worship online. We have now completed almost all of the primary systems to allow us to stream worship for people all around the country. We have families regularly joining us from Washington, Kansas, South and North Carolina, Ohio, and more. What a blessing to be able to expand our reach in non-traditional ways. We're also grateful that local friends who can't make it to church for some reason are able to still join us.

### **Outdoor Worship**

Along with online worship, we held six outdoor services in the playground lot this summer. It culminated with a hot dog cookout before service on September 2 thanks to Carl and Jean Fretthold. We also baptized two children at the service: Charlie Henry and Maggie Reed. We invited people to bring different items each week to use in the service, and even experimented with different styles of worship—one of the services used Taizé, a form of sung prayer.