



South Park

United Methodist Church

a faith community rooted in the Word
branching out into the community

June 5, 2014

To The Families of South Park Preschool,

This letter is to inform you that South Park Preschool will not be continuing its work at South Park United Methodist Church, beginning immediately. The Lead Team of SPUMC has been considering many factors that have led to this decision, and we wish to share our reasoning with you.

We celebrate the many years that South Park Preschool has been operated by and located at the church, and we recognize the wonderful work of the teaching staff and the impact that they have had on many families over the life of this school. However, with the changing climate that surrounds the church, and the other ministries that share space with the preschool, we feel that it is in the best interest of the children we serve to discontinue the program. For many years, we have been *grandfathered in* and have not been forced to provide updates to our building that many other buildings with preschools have (a sprinkler system, convenient handicap accessibility to the second floor and gym area, a hallway secure lock-down system and secure access to our outdoor play area, just to name a few.)

As a church, we love the children we serve, and we want to be able to provide the safest and most secure building in which they can learn, play and thrive, and we feel that the weekday preschool program deserves a building that is secure and encourages this. South Park UMC just cannot afford to do all of the necessary steps that would need to be done to make our program meet the current building requirements as well as keep the children as safe as we would like with our current set up, shared ministry space and in our current neighborhood. This does not reflect the current safety practices of the preschool staff in any way.

Representatives of the church have been working to try and find a suitable location for the preschool. However, at this point, we have not been able to, and so it is with deep regret that we feel we must inform you that South Park Preschool will be closed.

We will continue to work with Mrs. Piechota, in the hopes that she will be able to locate a new space, and the church has offered financial support for a location transition, as well as a transfer of preschool materials. If this happens, we will let you know immediately. South Park Preschool will refund any registration fees that have been made for the upcoming school year.

Know that we pray for you and your family in this transition. We recognize that change is difficult for young children. We also recognize that the timing of this announcement may cause concern for your family and the preschool needs of your child, and for that we apologize. It is our feeling that there is no "good time" to share difficult news, and we pray that the summer will give you time to find a program for your child.

If you would like to speak to one of our Lead Team Representatives or Pastor Lori or Pastor Tom, please feel free to call the church office to set up an appointment. (937.224.1731)

Pastor Thomas Miller

Pastor Lori Reiber



140 Stonemill Rd, Dayton, OH 45409

937-224-1731

www.southparkumc.com