



July 13-17

First United Methodist Church of DeKalb Vacation Bible School

Parent and Camper Information Packet



Welcome Parents and Happy Campers

...to RAINFOREST VBS! During the week of **JULY 13-17**, we are going to plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. We are heading to **Walcamp**, an outdoor Christian Education facility, to experience this unique VBS.

- Preschool children, ages 4 & 5, are invited to join us for 1/2 days Monday-Thursday, and a full day on Friday for our Preschool Program. Busing will be available for preschoolers **TO camp only (Mon-Thurs)** but will bus preschoolers back to the church building on Friday. Preschool parents will need to arrange their own pick-up at camp Monday-Thursday.

- We understand that some 5 year olds are able to participate in a full-day program. If you feel that your 5 year old camper can stay at camp the entire day, you are welcome to register them in the full-day program.

- Full-day program is open to those entering first grade through seventh grade as campers (and kindergarteners if able to attend all day), and eighth grade through college as youth leaders.

- Our family picnic is on Friday- preschoolers and parents are welcome to join everyone for lunch and stay the afternoon for fun and games at Walcamp. Please look for REMINDER texts throughout VBS week for information regarding the picnic. Information regarding REMINDER is on the following page.

Elementary Campers/Youth

Leaders

VBS Schedule 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Bus Schedule 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Preschool

VBS Schedule Mon-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Fri. 9:00am-3:15pm

Bus Schedule Mon.-Thurs. Pick Up at 8:30 a.m.;

NO RETURN BUS Mon.-Thurs.

Camp Hours and Location

Walcamp's address is 32653 Five Points Road, Kingston, Illinois. Campers not taking the bus may be dropped off and picked up at Walcamp

Busing Information

→ Those taking the bus will need to be dropped off at the **church's front parking lot** by **8:15am**

(Church address is 2501 N Annie Glidden Rd, Dekalb IL) All children and youth must check in with the VBS volunteer. **Buses will depart at 8:30 a.m.**

→ The bus will return to the church at 3:30 p.m. for elementary and youth every day (and Friday for preschoolers.)

→ **Please be sure to mark on your child's registration form whether or not your child will be taking the bus, and include any specific information/instructions for bus riding (ex. Not taking the bus on certain days.)**

→ Only people listed on the registration form will be authorized to pick up your child. If a person is not listed on the registration form, the person will not be allowed to pick up your child without direct notification from the child's parent. Please contact the director of any pick up changes. We reserve the right to check ID's of people that we do not know.

Family Picnic—Friday

Friday we will have our family potluck picnic. At 12:30 pm family and friends are welcome to join us at Walcamp for lunch and fun activities in the afternoon. If you like to bring or donate food/drink items please drop off at the Church before Friday, or bring to Walcamp on Friday 11:00am. We will finish the day at Walcamp at 3:00 pm. If you are unable to attend the family picnic or cannot stay the entire afternoon, you can pick up your camper at the church at 3:30pm. Look for more information throughout the week regarding the family picnic.

COMMUNICATION



- Daily Updates—You will receive daily reminders during the week of VBS through the GroupMe software. You will receive a text to download the app in June and join VBS 2026 chat group. **(Mandatory Requirement)**
- If weather does NOT permit us to be outside for camp, a text will be sent with information about how we will proceed with the day's activities.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Included with this mailing is a family Registration Form.
- If your camper is a youth volunteer (eighth grade through college age) an extra form is included regarding registration for crew leader training. Please include Crew Leader Training form when returning the registration form.
- Please make sure you read through and fill out all the information included, then sign and return Registration Form, Information Packet Signature Form, and Youth Training Form.
- Please be sure to mark on the Registration form if your family would like to receive a music CD from this year's VBS.
- Early Bird Registration –You will get a \$5 discount per camper/youth if you register on or before May 31st.
- Final deadline for registration is **JUNE 21**. This is an earlier deadline than previous years, so please be sure to get your forms in early. Spots cannot be guaranteed if forms are received after June 21.

ONLINE REGISTRATION is OPEN

- to register and pay, go to www.firstumc.net and click on the VBS picture on the slide show or text VBS to 815-756-6301; this will take you to the registration and payment form.

- to only make a payment online, go to www.firstumc.net and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click "online giving", from there click on "designation" box and scroll down to VBS Fee or text VBS fee to 815-756-6301

What Should Campers Wear and Bring Daily

- Appropriate clothes for outside and weather (we are outside all day)
- Camp t-shirt (issued on Day 1, then wear **every day** thereafter)
- Socks and Gym Shoes (**NO OPEN TOE SHOES OR SANDALS**)
- *****Reusable Water bottle with camper's name on it *****
- Sunscreen and bug repellent should be applied before coming to camp, and brought to camp to reapply in the afternoon
- Swimsuit and towel—we don't swim everyday but water games are played throughout the week
- A healthy, non-perishable lunch
- A backpack

What NOT to Bring

- Toys/video games
- Glass bottles
- Anything that can be broken, stolen, lost, or of value

- **Cell Phones** - We understand many kids of all ages have their own phones, however phone usage is not allowed at stations, walking to stations, & when there leader says. Phones can be used at lunch once all campers are settled and crew leaders are okay with usage.

Youth Family Service Agency

We are excited to share that our mission for the 2026 VBS is to support our local Family Service Agency and the Youth Home. These organizations are dedicated to strengthening families and providing safe, supportive care for children and youth in our community. During this mission, we will be collecting spare change and gently used items for their new Youth Home, with all contributions helping provide essential resources and support for the children and families they serve.

First Aid, Medical Emergency, and Health Policies

If your child is injured, we will take the necessary steps to obtain medical care. The steps may include, but are not limited to:

- Administering general first aid
- Contacting parent(s)/guardian(s) or emergency contact
- Contacting emergency response personnel and/or transporting to a hospital
- A First UMC volunteer will accompany the child to the hospital until a parent/guardian arrives

Camper/Youth attending Vacation Bible School, must be free of the following illness or symptoms for at least 24 hours:

- ~ Fever (without fever reducing medicines) ~ Any unexplained rash ~ Vomiting or diarrhea
~ Any contagious skin or eye infections ~ Colored nasal drainage

Medication at Camp

If your child requires medication during camp hours, please call the Director of Family Ministry at 815-501-0170 prior to camp for arrangements. Please DO NOT send any medications with the camper in his/her backpack or lunch; an adult VBS volunteer will be available at bus drop-off to give the medicine to. If your child arrives at camp without sunscreen and/or bug repellent, the adult unit leader will apply it to your child upon arrival at camp.

Videos/Photographs

As a program participant of First UMC Vacation Bible School, your child may be filmed/photographed during his/her activities at camp. We may use these videos/photos periodically in our services, newsletters, website or other publications (facebook/Instagram). If you have any objections to the use of your child's video/photo, please indicate your objections on the registration form.

VBS Discipline

At First United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School, we aim to teach and model the love of God towards each other while providing a fun and safe environment for children of all ages. Therefore, we give encouragement freely and use criticism sparingly. In order to do this, the leadership team has established a set of rules. We ask you, the parents and guardians, to read the following rules with your child and encourage your child to abide by them:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Talk in an appropriate, respectful manner.
3. Respect Unit, Station, and Crew leaders as well as Walcamp staff.
4. Be considerate of others' feelings and belongings.
5. Name-calling, teasing, or the use of any inappropriate language is never acceptable.
6. There will be no hitting, kicking, or fighting.
7. Abide by all safety rules.



Failure to abide by these rules will result in an initial warning, and depending on the violation, followed by these consequences:

- 1. A first violation will result in a warning and an individual conference with VBS leadership.**
- 2. A second violation will result in a conference between the VBS Director and the parent/guardian.**
- 3. In the event of further violation, the participant will be sent home for the remainder of the week.**

Every incident will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and consequences will be determined by the severity of an incident. Suspension will only take place in the most extreme cases and at the discretion of the VBS Director.

If you have any questions, please call the church at 815-756-6301, or if you need to reach me on camp days, my cell # is 815-501-0170. On behalf of all the leaders and volunteers at VBS, thank you for allowing your child to spend the week with us.

Let's Discover the Nature of God! ~ Kelsey Lynch, Director of Family Ministries



First United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

Parent and Camper Information Packet Signature Form

Please sign and return this page with completed registration form.

I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Information Packet* and have read it to my child(ren)

I understand that Friday's bus will deliver my camper(s)/youth to the CHURCH BUILDING at 3:15pm if I am unable to attend Family Picnic at Walcamp.

Parent signature

date

I have read and understand the *First UMC VBS Parent and Camper Information Packet* with my parent or guardian

I am responsible for bringing all needed supplies to camp each day and for telling my parent/guardian if I am not feeling well before going to camp each day.

#1 Camper/Youth signature

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