



## **Mt Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

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*Making and Growing Followers of Jesus*

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6*

*“ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”  
Luke 2:13-14*

Prince of Peace. On earth, peace. Peace. Our daughters used to get so mad when they asked Tom and me what we wanted for Christmas and we told them “peace- peace in our household, peace between sisters, just peace.” Wrong answer. They wanted a simple gift that they could buy. Peace is hard. Peace is work. Peace can’t be done unless it is done with others. The newspapers and our newsfeeds are filled with talks of peace, but pictures of war. Peace is hard. Peace is work. Is peace even possible?

As the director of Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool, I get to observe a lot every week and let me tell you - peace is happening in the walls of MLEPC! Our classrooms are filled with children who are black, white, Hispanic, Asian and mixed race. We have twins. We have only children. We have children who live in big families and children who live with a single parent. We have families who have large homes, and others who are living with extended family. We have Christians, Muslims, Hindus and non-believers. We have children with autism, we have children who can’t speak. We have children who run fast and others who trip over their feet. We have budding artists and others who scribble. We have children who memorize scripture and others who have never heard the name of Jesus ( before coming to KKCP!)

So, guess what this rag tag group of children does - every single day. They. Play. Together. No telling others they don’t belong. No shaming for the kind of car they arrived in or the shoes they wear. No mocking of accents or lack of speech or what’s in their lunches.

They come to school every day to play with their friends and to learn about Jesus. And it’s a beautiful thing. And sometimes they get frustrated with each other, but their teachers give them words to move toward peace. And sometimes they get angry when they can’t do something. And a friend comes over to help them and they work together, and there is peace.

Peace is a beautiful experience in preschool. It gives me hope for the next generation. We teach these little ones each day that God has created them in His image - every single one of them. Every single one of us!

Romans 12:18 tells us “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Sure , it’s a lot easier to hop online do some quick shopping for gifts for loved ones, but it is so worth the effort to work together to live in peace. As we move through Advent, my prayer is that we would let the little children lead us by example, striving to live together in peace.

Peace and joy,

Marcia Pratt  
Director, Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool