

# VBS Update...



I bring news and an update about VBS at Powell UMC.

What is going on in the world has changed many things about VBS, but it has not changed God's love for the children and God's desire for the children to grow closer in relationship with them. We will have something this summer with children, Jesus, Bible stories and fellowship in some way this summer! However, we are still working towards that plan, here is the information that I know at this time.

We will not be able to host "in-person" VBS on May 31st - June 7th.

The VBS leadership team and I met and have made some decisions.

We WILL have some form of VBS, however, we are not sure what that is at this moment. We are going to "Be Still" & "Wait" until June 26th and make a concrete decision at that time.

## Following Guidelines:

We will be following and adhering to the Ohio government and UMC West Ohio Conference safety standards and policies. Social distancing and wearing masks would be a huge challenge for children and the size of the VBS program that we are blessed to provide at Powell UMC. Currently the government is stating that "Phase 3" is when social distancing and wearing of masks would no longer be required. That is also when the UMC West Ohio Conference states that children's activities are able to be performed in UMC churches.

## June 26th Deadline:

If the Ohio government and West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church see that we are moving towards "Phase 3" in or around June 26th, then we will host "In-Person" VBS, Rocky Railway, July 26th - July 31st. However, if we are not at or not moving towards "phase 3" by June 26th, then we will not be able to host "in-person" VBS at Powell UMC. Our focus is the safety of our children, participates and volunteers of our VBS program. We will follow state and UMC West Ohio Conference guidelines.

## If not "In-Person" than Virtual VBS:

If we are unable to host "in-person" VBS the week of July 26-July 31st, then WE WILL HOST a VIRTUAL VBS that same week! If we host a virtual VBS we will not be using Rocky Railway. We will hold the Rocky Railway program until Summer 2021! Instead, the VBS leadership team will pull from the VBS archives to find some of our favorite activities, songs, Bible Stories and other favorite VBS stations and might even develop some of our own material. Virtual VBS will be recorded and will be accessed through our website the week of July 26th - July 31st!

## VBS will Happen... in some way:

You will know on June 26th if we are able to host "in-person" Rocky Railway VBS or Virtual VBS! Either way... WE WILL HAVE VBS July 26th - July 31st! We will share Jesus! We will sing! We will hear Bible Stories! We will have Prayer! We will have "God Sightings"! We will have VBS in some form! It might look different, but it will be awesome and it will be wonderful and Jesus will be with us in spirit as we praise him together the week of July 26th - 31st!

## Refunds:

If we are able to hold "in-person" VBS and you are uncomfortable being together or the new date does not work with your schedule; we will be glad to give you a full refund after June 26th. If we are not able to hold "in-person" VBS then your VBS payment secures your registration for VBS 2021! However, if you would prefer a refund, we understand and will provide you with one - but your spot for 2021 will not be held. We are already close to full for many grades in VBS. If your child will be a 7th grader 2021 and will no longer be a participant, but a volunteer - we will refund your money. If you request a refund, please send me an email. My prayer is that you will decide to hold your spot for Rocky Railway 2021! Virtual VBS will be free to all!

## Prayer:

I ask that you continue to surround the VBS leadership team and myself in prayer! This was a challenging decision to make. As we come to June 26th we will have a definite answer as to what VBS 2020 will look like for Powell UMC. We will continually need your prayers even after a decision is decided; prayer to navigate "in-person" VBS after being in quarantine for so long or developing an awesome Virtual VBS! Please hold us in your prayers!

## Questions or Concerns:

If you have questions or concerns - please reach out to me, Rebecca Brownlee at [rebeccabrownlee@powellumc.org](mailto:rebeccabrownlee@powellumc.org). I welcome your questions and concerns!

I know that God is always Good! We learned that last summer at VBS 2019. I know that currently this chaos, this struggle is real. I also know that Jesus is real! I know that Jesus is with us and guiding us during this process. I truly trust in Jesus and I have faith that no matter what - we will have an awesome VBS where children meet Jesus, grow in relationship with Jesus and will feel Jesus' love.

I truly look forward to VBS at Powell UMC the week of July 26th - July 31st in whatever form it is - it will be amazing!

Blessings,

Rebecca L. Brownlee

Children's Ministries Director at Powell UMC

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