

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such
is the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKJV)

December 2024

Director's Note

When we return from Thanksgiving break, we will jump right into Christmas preparations. December is such an exciting month! Spending this time of year with preschoolers is a true joy. They are so excited about the decorations and the lights and the Christmas story. The next few weeks will be full of Christmas festivities. From baby Jesus to gingerbread to bells to gifts to stars to Christmas trees . . . we will make the most of our time together. It is the perfect time to begin teaching the children the real reason for the season – the birth of Jesus! Pastor Chris will start off the Advent season with Chapel time and the children will get to hear the story of Jesus' birth. Ask your child to tell you about it!

My hope is that you will take plenty of time to enjoy the blessings of this holiday season and create lifelong memories with your children. Sometimes the smallest things have the biggest impact. Some fun ideas: cut down your own Christmas tree, decorate the tree together, listen to and sing Christmas songs, set up a child-safe nativity and let your child tell the story, bake goodies for your friends and neighbors, take a drive in PJs to look at Christmas lights, bake a birthday cake for Jesus, read Christmas books together, involve your kids in shopping for those in need, try out the activities on the attached "A Family Advent Calendar". The possibilities are endless! Your children are at a wonderful age to think about what traditions you would like to create for your family.

Please join us at Arcola Church for a variety of Christmas experiences. Details for everything offered, including the Christmas Fest and Christmas Eve worship, can be found here - <https://arcolachurch.org/christmas/>

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.

Barbara

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ACP Calendar

The calendar for the school year is posted on our website for you to view at any time.

November 25-29 - NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Break)
December 2-4 – Nativity story with Pastor Chris
December 18 & 19 - Christmas Celebration
(Family Christmas Sing-along & Fellowship @ 11am)
Dec. 20 – Jan. 3 NO SCHOOL (Christmas/Winter Break)
January 20 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Birthday)
January 27-29 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed
Jan 30 & 31- Pajama Days
February 13 & 14 - Valentine's Day Celebrations
February 17 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed
Feb 27 & 28 - School Pictures

ACP Family Christmas Sing-Along

Our annual Family Christmas Sing-Alongs will be on **Wednesday, December 18 (WF & MWF classes) and Thursday, December 19 (TuTh, MTuTh, M-Th & M-F classes)**. You will drop your child off at the regular time of 9:30am. Families return for the sing-along which will begin promptly at 11am. The children always look forward to sharing their songs and friends with their families. Everyone in the family is welcome to attend!



Each family is asked to bring a dozen cookies to share during a time of fellowship following the singing. Because the children will be accompanied by their parents, the cookies may be homemade for this occasion only. **Remember we are a peanut and tree nut free preschool & church.** This is an airborne allergy, so we appreciate your assistance

in keeping our students safe.

You will take your child with you after the sing-along and fellowship time. We will not have a carline for pick-up.

Please remember that your child is only a preschooler and will be in a room filled with adults they don't know. We have a song or two the children are preparing to sing for you, however, please do not be upset if your child doesn't want to participate and would prefer to sit with you. We want our celebration to be fun not stressful.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is an optional program that requires advance registration and payment. Lunch Bunch will be offered on specific days each month. It offers the opportunity for regularly registered students to extend their school day until 1:30pm while enjoying lunch, friends, and play. **The Sign-up for December dates were emailed on Friday, November 15.** Check your spam/junk mail if you don't see the email.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B49A8AE292-53303390-acplunch>

We plan to open lunch bunch to 2 ½ year-old students who are ready in January.

Enter in Good Health

As a reminder, when you enter the building or send your child into the building, you are confirming that you or your child do not have symptoms of a contagious illness. Children should be 24 hours symptom free without medication before returning to school. Please stay home if you are unwell!

Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month.** We do not send a bill. The best way to pay is on the preschool tuition [payment page on our website](#). There is a \$25 late fee after the 5th of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

Snack

All snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. **This policy applies to all snacks to be consumed at the preschool, including those**

brought in for celebrations, as well as items to be sent home with the children in goody bags.

We cannot serve items that have been processed or packaged in a facility that also processes or packages peanut products. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe. We will send home any snack that doesn't meet our guidelines.

We will make sure your child's **reusable water bottle** is filled before snack.

Due to the choking hazard, we prefer to NOT serve grapes or baby carrots (cutting them into safe sizes can be time consuming).

Scholastic Books

Does your child love books? Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school. Books make great gifts too! Your books will ship directly to our preschool, and we will send them home with your child. (If they are a surprise, just let me know and I'll notify you when they arrive.)



Family Order Due Date: 12/9/2024

Shop Our Class Page:

<https://orders.scholastic.com/GZVWY>

Shop Flyers: <https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers>

Thanks so much for your support!

Absences

If your child is going to be out of school due to illness or travel, please email your child's teacher or the preschool office.

Clothing

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own belongings when there are several others that look similar.

Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey about next year. Your responses will help guide the preschool board in determining what class options we will offer for the next school year. We appreciate your time and the kind comments. For the few who mentioned wishing we started earlier, that isn't an option due to the restrictions put on us by the county.

Arcola Church Happenings

Arcola Church is an active church with opportunities for Worship, Sunday school for all ages, a variety of bible studies, music groups, support groups, and opportunities to donate to the Hygiene Pantry and the Dulles South Food Pantry. For more information, check out our website or ask me to point you in the right direction. You do not need to be a member of Arcola Church to participate in any of our programs.
www.ArcolaChurch.org

Christmas Fest & Live Nativity Friday, December 13, 5-8:30pm

Experience an evening of holiday joy! Our annual smash hit Christmas Fest is family fun for all ages. We're bringing back live animals in our nativity (with a DONKEY this year!), Christmas music performances, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus Santa's workshop, games, a silent auction, food trucks, and more.

No registration necessary - schedule details can be found online.

www.ArcolaChurch.org/christmasfest

Christmas Worship Schedule – All are welcome!

Sunday, December 15 @ 7pm – Night of Hope
(Christmas Remembrance Service)

Sunday, December 22 @ 11am - "Sing Christmas!"
Choral & Orchestra Cantata Experience

Sunday, December 24

@ 11 pm – Children's Themed Worship and
telling of the Nativity Story

@ 1, 3, 5, & 7 pm – Candlelight & Communion

Parenting Littles with Grace

Wednesday, December 18 @ 9:30am

Caring for littles is its own unique season, and we want to support you in your faith journey! Join us monthly for this low-key Bible study - we'll share a devotion, have childcare available (but please come even if your kids are in school!), and connect about caring for Jesus' littlest disciples. All caregivers welcome (parents, grandparents, and nannies, etc). If you would like to join this group, email parentinglittles@arcolachurch.org. Contact [Allison Bishara](#) with questions.

Dates With a Purpose

December 7, 4:45pm

Need a date night? DWAP provides an intentional way to do just that. You will meet for 20 minutes, get some discussion questions, then be on your way. Contact **Molly Riedel** with questions. Register here: <https://arcolachurch.org/event/23689363-2024-12-07-dates-with-a-purpose/>

Wednesday Prayer Service

**Every Wednesday @11:30am in Pearson Chapel
(finished before pick-up carline)**

This service is 30 minutes in length and designed to strengthen us until Sunday comes. Prayer is a powerful tool that connects us to God and with each other. During this worship, in addition to a variety of prayer opportunities, we will sing some good hymns, listen to special music, hear a brief inspirational message, and share communion together. All who wish, may also experience anointing during communion time.

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Worship @ 9am & 11am (Nursery available)

Sunday School for Preschool, K-5th grade @ 9am

Youth (grades 6-12) Sunday School/Fellowship @
10am

If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the life of Arcola Church, please send me an e-mail (BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.

We will sing the following songs at our **Family Christmas Sing-Along and Celebration!** Singing these songs at home will help reinforce our singing at school and is also lots of fun!

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus Laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The Little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.