

2023 Salem United Methodist Preschool Charter

Originally a Kindergarten for the community, Salem United Methodist Church then chartered a Preschool in 1971 as public school facilities incorporated Kindergarten into their curriculum and buildings. With pride in over 50 years of students and in recognition of the changes in both our local community and the field of early childhood education, Salem United Methodist Church hereby establishes a new charter for Salem UM Church Preschool.

The Salem United Methodist Church Preschool's mission is to empower young children to reach their full potential and to help families thrive. We believe that by providing a stimulating and balanced environment, children will develop the skills needed to be successful in school, family, and life into their adult years. We strive to create a solid foundation of respect, responsibility, and compassion throughout our program. We pledge to nurture each child's curiosity, creativity, and desire for learning through a blended curriculum of play activities, interactive learning experiences, and individualized instruction. We realize that positive social skills, creativity, emotional growth, and critical thinking skills are important in developing each student holistically.

As Salem United Methodist Church and Preschool seeks to bridge each unique family environment and a group educational setting, we recognize the importance of common values. We pledge to operate an inclusive environment that respects and honors those of all faith and cultural backgrounds. While our curriculum is not intended for religious instruction, the Preschool will operate in accordance with Judeo-Christian values and as part of the vision and mission of Salem United Methodist Church. These Judeo-Christian values, which are based on the Christian Bible and United Methodist doctrine, are expressed as common values in this way:

- Mutual kindness and sharing
- Appreciation for nature and the diversity of creation learned through experience and science
- Inclusion of meditation, mindfulness, and spiritual curiosity
- Positive expressions of gratitude, joy, and wonder
- Value for each person as an unique child of God
- Participation in community by exercising empathy, listening, and compassion
- Accountability for actions as an opportunity to learn & form resilience
- Using our skills and abilities to help and serve others

While these values undergird our program and our expectations of our staff, no child will participate in any religious activities without written parental permission. Salem United Methodist Church and Preschool may offer enrichment programs and other opportunities to enrolled families that are interfaith or Christian in content. The nature of the programs will be age-appropriate, and the activity outline will be available in advance for families to see before signing up.