

CECC NEWS 2021



A monthly newsletter brought to you by Central Early Childhood Center

DECEMBER 2021



Christmas Eve at Central

If your family is looking for a family-friendly place to worship on Christmas Eve, Central UMC will be holding a candle-light service at 7:00 pm.

Or if you are looking for an earlier time, Keystone UMC will be having a service at 5:00pm in Central's sanctuary.

Seasons Greetings!



CECC will be closed for our Winter Break starting at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

*We hope everyone has
a safe and fun holiday!*

Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.



Free Vision Screenings: December 1st & 2nd

Just a reminder that we will be offering Vision Screenings on Dec. 1 & 2. The screening is performed by a trained technician and requires **NO physical contact with the child & social distancing measures will be used.** A consent form will need to be signed for your child to participate!

Available FREE for ALL children!

Central Early Childhood Center

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Mitten Tree



Once again, CECC will be providing a tree to collect hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to be donated to families who need them. This year, donations will be going to Central's sister church, Kuomba. This is a congregation located in KC's northeast area and made up of refugees, mostly from African nations. Many of the families are large, with children of all ages and at least 2 adults, so all sizes needed. They are often not accustomed to KC's cold temperatures, so any donations will be appreciated! The Mitten Tree can be found in the CECC entrance.

Gingerbread "Out of the Box"

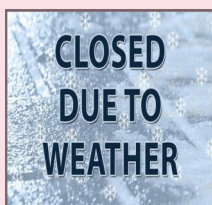
The Candy Land wonderland was such a big hit over Halloween, staff have decided to create a gingerbread themed interactive display for the week prior to our winter break. In keeping with our "It's not a box" theme, teachers will be using various sizes of boxes to create houses, buildings and even Christmas trees to be popping up in the CECC entrance to create a winter wonderland for all to enjoy!



Welcome MJ Hurt



MJ was born and raised in KC and currently lives in Midtown with her boyfriend, Brandon. She has experience babysitting and nannying young children ages 2 through 6. MJ grew up around educators - her mom is an English professor at KU and her dad is a counselor for children, adults, and people with special needs. She also has a little brother who is 21 years old. She is currently working on her early education certification. MJ previously attended the UMKC Bloch School of Business for two years and even started her own small handmade makeup business called Everyday Glamour. MJ soon came to realize going into business wasn't fulfilling for her. She wanted a career where her natural character traits like empathy, creativity, and the desire to help people could be realized. MJ's dream one day is to open her own night-time child care and be a resource for parents that work long hours or night shifts. She believes every child is beautiful and unique in their own way. In addition to her love of playing the flute, belly dancing, sewing, and knitting, MJ's talents include writing a short story for children called "The Enchanted Garden". She is so happy and honored to be working at Central and is looking forward to getting to know everyone.



Inclement weather- We typically follow the “Southwest Pod Schools of the Diocese of Kansas City, Missouri” in closing for inclement weather. These schools are located in our area and do not rely on bussing of students. If you hear on the radio or television, or on a news website that these schools (i.e. Visitation, St. Peter’s or St. Elizabeth’s Schools, SW Pod, or South Pod Catholic schools)

are closed for weather related reasons, then you may safely assume that we will also close. Recently, more and more elementary schools have a virtual learning component that negates needing to “close” for a snow day so there may be times when the directors at Central need to make that decision for the early childhood center. CECC reserves the right to make the decision to close or not close regardless of what the SW Pod schools decide. We will always notify families by email when CECC cancels or closes early or if we have made the decision to remain open on a day when the SW Pod schools have closed. There are no changes in tuition due to school cancellation or other changes for inclement weather or other emergencies. There will be no “make-up” days offered.



Meet Your CFAB Parent Representatives

We are thrilled to have two new Parent Reps joining the Children and Family Advisory Board (CFAB). This is a board comprised of Central Church members and staff, as well as CECC directors, teachers and parents. CFAB is a governing board that oversees all children’s programming for the church and CECC. Join us in welcoming Megan Arndt and Julie Davis. They each have written short bios to introduce themselves. They are here for you to share any questions or concerns you may want to bring to CFAB.

Megan Arndt - The Arndt Family has been attending CECC for a year and a half. They have 2 boys, Barrett (207) and Aden (203), and will be welcoming a baby girl before Thanksgiving. The boys are so excited to have a little sister on the way! Megan has a background in interior design and works at American Century Investments as a facilities planner. She loves creating hands-on art projects and fun adventures for her kids. Waylon is a self-employed Architect with his own private practice. As a family, they love frequenting all the local parks and going on bike rides. You’re sure to catch them with their dog Bear as they walk and ride to and from school every day. Megan joined the board as a way to get involved with her kid’s daily community and is looking forward to connecting with more families and parents.

Julie Davis - The Davis family joined CECC this fall and has two students enrolled: Ophelia (room 207) and Franklin (room 203). They live nearby in Brookside. The family enjoys biking, walking, camping, and exploring outdoors together. Ophelia has never met a bug that she doesn’t want to immediately pick up and investigate. Franklin loves digging in dirt, singing, imaginative play, and anything that his big sister is doing. Julie works part time for Burns & McDonnell doing environmental consulting and Matt builds trails for Jackson County. Julie joined the CFA Board to help connect to the CECC community during this strange time of Covid and plan fun social (and safe) events for families.



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Room 104— Michelle Garcia

The children love playing together and smiling at their friends. Every day they start to recognize friends when they come in the morning. They smile and start to babble at each other and they've become very verbal and very expressive about how they feel and sharing what they want. Every day they try something new, whether it's sitting up or rolling over or even getting up on all four's to crawl.

Soon we will be talking about Animals. I will read different books such as "My First Book about Animals" and we will learn a new song about animals called *Old McDonald*. In this song I will name the animals to help children learn what sounds they make; this will help develop Language and Literacy skills. Also, I'll bring out our soft farm animals to show what they look like, and to foster cognitive skills. The children will explore the different types of animals, by looking at them and touching them. I will also bring in a barn to show the babies where the animals live (like in our song). They will also take a buggy ride around the center to see what other animals we may find out on our adventure. And this month I will introduce a few signs such as "dog", "cat" and "bird".



Room 101—Sally Dux & Kerra Wilborn

December finds the children in Room 101 not only active, curious, and social, but also changing in their eating and sleeping habits. As they move toward toddlerhood, their interest in solid food has increased, with less demand for the bottle. The younger children are adding solid food to their routine and the older children are enjoying finger foods and moving from high chairs to small chairs at the table. There is also more desire to play than taking a long nap. The older children will transition from crib to cot as they reach their first birthday. We have a new room arrangement allowing us to introduce low riding toys and climbing pieces. The soft pieces are challenging the children to practice their motor skills. It is exciting to see a child discover new abilities, and we are thankful for the opportunity to spend time with each child in our classroom.



Classroom news



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Room 107—Katie Lane & Shelby Walz

In the month of November, room 107 worked on recognizing our families with family puzzle photos. Ms. Katie also made apple and pumpkin playdough for the children, we added some colorful feathers to make playdough "turkeys". The class celebrated with a Thanksgiving feast and read books about giving thanks. In December we will talk about different ways people celebrate the holiday season. If you have any special family traditions, we would love to learn about them, please email us! We will keep the bulletin board updated with what we are doing in the classroom.



Room 105—Joyce McKelvy & MJ Hurt

The children in room 105 have been pretty busy! We started off the month exploring the color yellow. They used various painting tools to create stunning art using yellow paint, sponges, sponge rollers, leaves, and cars. The children also created art on our scribble wall. They used colored markers making straight, curvy, and broad strokes with their markers. Glue was also introduced by allowing the children to glue textured ribbon to yellow construction paper. All of these activities help children develop their fine motor skills as well as introducing new vocabulary. Along with all their creative artwork, the children have engaged in Baby Doll Circle Time. We used the dolls to recognize body parts, play peek-a-boo, play hide and seek, and to help children learn to recognize emotions. These activities strengthen attachments, attunement, and social play, coupled with other objectives such as impulse control, regulating emotions and naming feelings. The children seem to enjoy this and look forward to our



Baby Doll Circle Time every day. Throughout the month of December, we will continue with our Baby Doll Circle Time to help model relationships, focus on "I love you rituals", empathy, self-regulation, impulse and emotional control. So, engage in baby doll play with your child. We're sure they will enjoy it!

Classroom news



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Room 203—Carla Warriner & Jerri Taylor



203 is ready for some holiday fun! We recently had our class Thanksgiving feast & discovered chocolate pie and whipped cream! Yum! We have started using scissors with paper and playdough, both of which develop our fine motor

skills. Ms. Katie (107 teacher) made us two new homemade playdoughs - one with pumpkin and one with applesauce. They are so soft and smell so good! Thank you, Ms. Katie! We still love squeezing all of the glue out of the bottle, and in December we will be adding glitter on top of our glue. We can't wait! We continue to use boxes in our play - to sit in, jump on, store items, and more. Soon, we will decorate a really big box to look like a gingerbread house. Then we will each make our own gingerbread house with graham crackers, icing, and various sweet treats!

Continuing with the holiday theme, we will put new items in the sensory table: wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, tape, small boxes, and more. The weather usually cools off considerably in December, so we will have the opportunity to talk about frost, mittens, gloves, and maybe even ice and snow. Putting on gloves can be challenging, so we will practice. And we will get out the hats, including the Santa hats!

Room 201—Adriane LaCaze

The holiday can be full of so much excitement! We are looking forward to participating in so many family and school traditions that it can sometimes be overwhelming! Llama Llama Holiday Drama is a book we often read at the holidays that reminds us of those feelings and taking a moment to calm. We will continue to practice getting calm after and before big feelings by practicing deep breaths and taking time to snuggle or rest. In the classroom we will spend a lot of time talking about and showing what we do at our houses and in our families during this time which helps the children learn about the differences and similarities between themselves and their friends. We will do this by having a week full of show and share time as well as our daily table talks. We will begin December with our classroom tradition of



decorating the classroom for Christmas! The children enjoy being able to have some control over putting ornaments on a small tree and decorations around the room!



Classroom news



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Room 207—Angela Bowers

207 celebrated Thanksgiving sharing with our friends down the hall in 201! We celebrated 2 days of Thanksgiving. The first day we had a friendship snack! Friends from both rooms brought different food items to make a trail mix of their very own. They each took turns adding food that they wanted to their cups. The second day we enjoyed eating lunch together and playing together everyday. We even learned how to make butter using heavy cream, a glass jar, and 3 marbles. We are looking forward to spending more time together through the holiday season.



We want to know!

Will your child be absent from school?

Have you moved or changed your contact info?

Does your child have any new immunizations?

Need to add someone to your child's pick up list?

Any time you can answer **YES** to any of the above, we want to know! Please call or email the CECC office—anytime 24/7. Thanks!

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A word from Pastor Sally



Dear ECC Families,

It's the holiday season! What an exciting time of year for you all. I hope that you're able to be intentional about what family traditions you are creating for your children. Make choices about what adds to your family's experience of the season, as opposed to what will simply weary you.

If you are looking for a place to worship on Christmas Eve, we'd love to have you join us at 7 p.m. for a candlelight Christmas Eve service. Our service will last less than an hour and will conclude with carols by candlelight. Little ones will receive flashlights rather than candles. And, if 5 p.m. is a better time for your family, Keystone UMC will hold their Christmas Eve service in our sanctuary.

May the gifts of this holy season surround you during this blessed time.

Sally

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes
Pastor, Central UMC



Betty Tracewell	12/1	Central UMC Admin.
Errol Jinks	12/4	Room 201
Kerra Wilborn*	12/14	Room 101
Ellie Murphy	12/20	Room 105
Monica Bajasas*	12/22	Support & 207
Mia Barth	12/24	Room 101
Nate Mitchell	12/26	Room 101

**CECC Staff*