



# Simple Gifts

In God's hands.... Your ordinary life is EXTRAORDINARY!

## Welcome to VBS 2009!

### VBS Theme Scripture Verse

*Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 1:12(The Message)*

**Thank you for registering for Vacation Bible School.** It will be a wonderful time for the children and our many volunteers. We can't wait to help your child affirm that they are gifts from God and that they have been blessed with gifts to share. Here is an outline of our VBS theme:

- Monday: Sharing the Simple Gift of a Penny**
- Tuesday: Sharing the Simple Gift of Water**
- Wednesday: Sharing the Simple Gift of God's Love**
- Thursday: Sharing the Simple Gift of Giving**

**Mission Project: Pennies for Peace**

### VBS Program:

- **Children 3 and under:** An infant nursery for children under 2 and a mini-VBS program for 2/3 year olds will be available for the children of volunteers. Children will check-in/meet upstairs in Kingdom City.
- **4/5 year olds (who have not attended Kindergarten):** These preschoolers will gather for the opening and closing in the sanctuary and then go to their own classrooms for a spiritual lesson, movement activities, snacks, and time to explore their creativity.
- **K-6th Grade:** These children will be divided into groups of 7-8 persons. Each group will have a Shepherds that helps them with their daily station rotations of Spirituality, Movement, Creativity and Snack. Groups will have their own special meeting place in the Sanctuary for the opening and closing worship/music sessions. This will be their daily pick-up/drop-off spot.

We hope everyone has a wonderful VBS experience. Once you've registered, please watch for participant/volunteer email updates!

In Christ,  
Angela McKibben, Registration Coordinator

Registration
<p><b>Participants</b></p> <p>Complete Registration Form</p> <p>Complete Med. Auth. Form</p> <p>Return forms to Kingdom City or to Welcome Desk by 7/7.</p> <p><b>Volunteers</b></p> <p>Complete Registration Form</p> <p>Complete Background Auth.</p> <p>Register for free childcare if needed.</p> <p>Return both forms to KC or Welcome Desk as soon as possible.</p> <p>For more VBS info, contact Deb Walker, Children's Ministries Coordinator:</p> <p><b>debw@fumc-cs.org</b></p> <p><b>719-471-8522 x213</b></p> <p><b>www.fumc-cs.org</b></p>

## VBS Guidelines

**Cost:** Registration is \$5 per child or a max of \$15/family. Scholarships are available.

**Drop-off/Pick-up:** Please drop off your children for VBS in the main sanctuary between 8:45 am and 9 am. Their Shepherds will be there to greet them. At 11:45 a.m. you are welcome to join your child in the sanctuary for the daily closing. *Children must be*

*picked up no later than noon.* To ensure your child's safety, please make sure to check out with your child's Shepherd each day. Children will not be allowed to leave without a parent or other authorized person.

**Child Care:** Childcare for children under 2 and a mini-VBS program for children ages 2 and 3 will be provided for the

children of those who volunteer.

**Parking:** If you are staying for the morning to volunteer, please park in the larger parking lot to the north of St. Vrain Street, the south parking lot, or in the metered parking. We'd like to have the parking lot next to the building available for those coming and going from preschool.

## VBS Mission: Pennies for Peace

This year, the mission project for VBS will be donating to Pennies for Peace.

### About the program (from their website)...

Pennies for Peace, a program of [Central Asia Institute](#) (CAI), educates children about the world beyond their experience and shows them that they can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time.

Pennies for Peace teaches children the rewards of sharing and working together to bring hope and educational opportunities to children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The mission of CAI focuses on community-based education, especially for girls. A 5th grade education for girls improves not only the basic indices of health for her and her family, she will also spread the value of education within her community.

Literacy, for both boys and girls, provides better

economic opportunities in the future and neutralizes the power of despot mullahs and other extremist leaders.

CAI believes that the best hope for a peaceful and prosperous world lies in the education of all the world's children.

### The Power of a Penny...

The penny, 1% of a dollar, is symbolic of the '1% of Gross Domestic Product' goal set by the United Nations. The goal was for wealthy countries to give foreign aid to impoverished nations each year.

A penny in the United States is virtually worthless, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy. A hundred pennies pays a teacher's salary for a day.

### What has Pennies for Peace accomplished?

CAI has built 78 permanent schools and four dozen temporary schools, trained hundreds of teachers, and

transformed the lives of more than 30,000 kids in Afghanistan and Pakistan — two-thirds of them girls — with no other chance at an education.

### How our VBS children will get involved...

Have you ever passed by a penny on the street thinking it's not worth picking up? This year's VBS mission hopes to change that... using the least of all coins to make big change in the world.

As you and your child start to notice the penny, you'll find that they are everywhere. Encourage your child to start a penny collection as soon as possible.

Each morning during VBS children will be invited to bring their pennies to the opening VBS session and place them in a special collection container. Each day, the children will be able to watch their donations grow

We are excited to see how God uses your child's Simple Gift of pennies!



## VBS Theme Verse

Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 1:12

### Daily Scripture... read daily with your children

#### Monday Sharing the Simple Gift of a Penny

##### **Luke 21:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple offering boxes. <sup>2</sup>He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>"What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus said. "That poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup>All of those other people gave a lot because they are rich. But even though she is poor, she put in everything. She had nothing left to live on."

#### Tuesday Sharing the Simple Gift of Water

##### **Genesis 24: 15-20**

**15** Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out. She had a jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah. Milcah was the wife of Abraham's brother, Nahor... She went down to the spring. She filled her jar and came up again. **17** Then the servant hurried to meet her. He said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." **18** "Have a drink, sir," she said. She quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. **19** After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll get water for your camels, too. I'll keep doing it until they finish drinking." **20** So she quickly emptied her jar into the stone tub. Then she ran back to the well to get more water. She got enough for all of his camels.

#### Wednesday Sharing the Simple Gift of God's Love

##### **Matthew 3: 13-17**

**13** Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He wanted to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to stop him. He told Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?" **15** Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Then John agreed. **16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. **17** A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

#### Thursday Sharing the Simple Gift of Giving

##### **John 6: 5-13**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>He asked this only to put Philip to the test. He already knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Eight months' pay would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

<sup>8</sup>Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>9</sup>He said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will they go in such a large crowd?"

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. The number of men among them was about 5,000. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus then took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish. <sup>12</sup>When they had all had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Gather the leftover pieces," he said. "Don't waste anything." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

#### Sharing

An important symbol of our VBS theme, Simple Gifts, is the penny. It is the least of all coins and we will collect them to demonstrate the power of the smallest gifts.

During the week we will celebrate all of your child's gifts—big and small!

Each day, after VBS, maybe at dinner or bedtime, read the theme verse and the daily Scripture, then pass a penny around and have each person share:

**Monday:** The woman shared her small gift. What gift of yours can you share with others?

**Tuesday:** The gift of hospitality is special. When have you done something nice for someone?

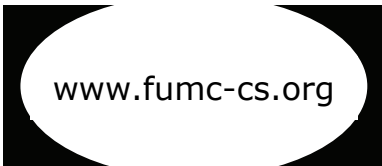
**Wednesday:** Share what you know about baptism. If your child has been baptized, share the story with your child.

**Thursday:** The boy shared his lunch and helped Jesus make a miracle. Share a miracle you have experienced in your own life.



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## Our Children's Ministry Mission

With God's help and guidance, this Children's Ministry of First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, CO covenants to:

**Exemplify the love of Christ whenever children are present;**

By providing an interactive environment which is:

*Sacred and Holy*

*Safe; physically, spiritually, and emotionally*

*Respectful; acknowledging children as precious and spiritual gifts from God*

And... Where children are invited to:

*Explore Scripture*

*Explore Traditions*

*Experience God's presence through prayer, worship and reflection*

*Be empowered to use their own reason spiritually and discernment to integrate scripture, tradition, and experience into their everyday lives*

# ~ VBS 2009 ~ Simple Gifts ~

Below is the schedule based on 12 groups of K-6th children. You will receive complete information about specific group names and assignments when you receive your Registration Confirmation Email. (Children in the 4/5s age group will check-in/meet together for the opening in the sanctuary and then head to their classrooms in Kingdom City. Pick-up will also be in the sanctuary.) Volunteers with children 3 and under should check-in/pick-up their children upstairs in Kingdom City. **Everyone—watch for Email Updates!**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>9:00—9:25</b>	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening
<b>9:30—10:00</b>	C	C	C	C	M	M	M	M	S	S	S	S
<b>10:00—10:20</b>	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
<b>10:25—10:55</b>	S	S	S	S	C	C	C	C	M	M	M	M
<b>11:00—11:30</b>	M	M	M	M	S	S	S	S	C	C	C	C
<b>11:35—12:00</b>	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

C= Creativity      M= Movement      S= Spirituality