## YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sonia Donnelly, Director

January was a fantastic start to the year for our youth! Ed Laarman joined us this month and shared with us the life and messages of Martin Luther King Jr. He provided information to our youngest kiddos and sent them home with a book about MLK to share with their families, and spoke to our teens using quotes from the Bible and inviting them to take a candid look at the racial injustice they see in their lives. He invited our youth to sing and participate in the Christians for Understanding MLK event and several kiddos came with their families. We also had a small group act out a skit to share an experience MLK went through which was eye-opening for young and old in attendance. We are blessed at FPC to have a diverse group of youth that participate in our programs, and I am so thankful that we are able to open our doors to them each week, feed their bodies, minds and souls so that they can go forward and help to be the change that is needed in the world.

In January we also opened the building to our High School students during finals week. Tuesday through Friday students came over between 9:45a.m. and 1:00p.m. and enjoyed snacks and lunch, time together, quiet places to study (the nursery and choir loft were favorites) and activities cultivated to help relieve stress (slime making is the number one stress reliever in case you ever encounter an anxious teen - and I'm happy to help with a recipe if you ever need one!). Over the course of the week we had over 25 teens come, with about half being teens who attend our Wednesday night programs and the remainder being friends they brought. We look forward to doing this again for finals week at the end of the school year.

February brings all kinds of fun to Young Disciples! We will be making valentines with the help of Kathy Anderson and her amazing card making skills, ice skating at the Kingsford rink, hosting our annual Souper Bowl food drive, and having a family game night. If you are interested in helping with any of these events or have a talent, skill or hobby you would like to share with the kids please let me know - we love to have guests!

## **FEBRUARY EVENTS**

Family Game Night: Friday, February 7th, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. Come and join us for dinner and a variety of games for the family to enjoy!

Friends are welcome, we always love to see new faces.

Super Bowl Party: Sunday, February 9th, 5:00p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly Super Bowl watch party. Pizza will be provided, bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.

Ice Skating Party: Wednesday, February 12th, 3:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. 4 years old through 6th grades - details will be sent home with the students.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Easter Eggstravaganza: April 9th, 5:00 - 7:00p.m.

VBS 2025: June 16th - 20th 9:00a.m. - Noon

*True North* is the theme of this year's VBS. If you want to help, call or text me at 309-258-7342.

FEBRUARY 2025