



Dear Parent or Guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your child has participated in the children and youth ministries of Murphysboro United Methodist Church and/or Agape House within the last year or so. At Murphysboro UMC and Agape House we love to see children and teens grow in their faith and in their relationship with the Lord. So you can imagine how very sad we were when we had to stop all children and youth ministries during the spring/summer due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Now that restrictions are lifting and we have put safety measures in place, we are eager to get back to offering children and youth programs for your family.

Unfortunately, the Agape House facility is too small to continue Wednesday night programming with social distancing safe practices. After much prayer, we have decided to combine Murphysboro UMC's Wednesday night children's program, **BLAST** (K-5th) with **Agape House** (K-12th) at Murphysboro UMC for the time being. Murphysboro UMC's **Youth Ministry** (6th-12th) will also be joining Wednesday evenings for worship and Bible study with the Agape House youth.

So, what does all this mean for your children/youth?

- ALL Agape House **children (K-5th)** and **youth (6th-12th)** are invited to attend Murphysboro UMC's Wednesday night children and youth programs.
  - Transportation will be available for those who need a ride from DeSoto, pick up will be at Agape House at 5:40PM
- MUMC children and youth can be dropped off at 6PM and picked up at 7:35PM at MUMC.

#### **What will Wednesday nights look like?**

- We will provide an individually packaged meal outside
- We will all worship together outside (with masks on!)
- The youth will go inside for (socially distant) Bible study and fellowship
- The children will have an engaging lesson outside (25 minutes), then proceed inside for small group time (25 minutes) for a socially distant activity.

**What safety precautions will be taken?**

**All CDC recommended guidelines will be followed at all times including:**

- Masks will be worn by children and adults at all times, except for 20 minutes during dinner outside.
- We will maintain 6ft distancing at all times, this includes while outside too.
- Everyone's temperature will be checked at check-in. If the temp is over 101.4, the child/youth/adult will not be able to stay. (Agape House children & youth will have their temps checked before leaving Desoto)
- No common objects will be shared. i.e. Any craft supplies and materials will be individually packaged for each child.
- No singing indoors. When singing outdoors masks will be required as well as 6ft distancing.
- We will postpone all activities and communicate with everyone if someone should test positive

**When will our programming take place?** Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday starting **September 16th** from **6-7:30pm** (bonus Wednesday, September 30th)

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup>**, Back to Church BLAST!!

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** BLAST & Youth Group

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup> & Oct 21<sup>st</sup>** BLAST & Youth Group

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup> & Nov 18<sup>th</sup>** BLAST & Youth Group

For safety reasons your child will need to be registered prior to attending.  
PLEASE REGISTER WITH THIS LINK!!

<https://blastregistration.typeform.com/to/FGjRck>

