



Mom's Day Out Times

November
2011

Mom's Day Out is a ministry of First Free Church dedicated to providing support for mothers of young children through quality, Christ-centered child care.

3 pages

First Evangelical Free Church * 2223 N. Mulford * Rockford * 815.877.7046 * www.momsdayout.net

Count Your Blessings

There is a song I grew up singing in church called "Count your Blessings." The verses in this hymn speak to the hardships and difficulties we often face in this life. Instead of becoming disheartened and discouraged, we are to remember what God has done for us and count our many blessings.

I recently read through the book of Deuteronomy in the Bible. Moses is giving his farewell address to the Israelites. Throughout his impassioned speech, he reminds the Israelites of all that God has done for them. God brought them out of slavery in Egypt, He parted the Red Sea before their very eyes, He fed them manna and brought water from a rock. Yet how often did the Israelites forget these mighty acts and complain about their current circumstances instead.

We all have a choice. We can dwell on the hardships and difficulties that are sure to confront us in this life or we can choose to remember all that God has done for us. Why not take some time to sit down and remember what God has done for you. Take it a step further and sit down with your family and remember together the many blessings you have received. Simply do what the chorus of "Count your Blessings" says... "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings see what God has done."

Deuteronomy 4:9

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Keri Early
Assistant Director, MDO



Chimps Are Learning to be Thankful

Cranberries, turkey, pumpkin pie and mashed potatoes piled high. Thankful hearts for all we share and for many blessings from our God who cares. Thanksgiving is upon us and the sights and smells of November are already here. I love the scent of cinnamon as pumpkin pie is baking. The sight of the fruits and vegetables with all the different colors are a wonder to behold. The Chimps are doing a great job at spying the many colors of God's world around us. Last month we focused on the color orange and this month we will search for browns and rectangle shapes. You may think that brown is a drab color but there are so many different hues that it's hard to count them all. Keep an eye out for them with your child this month.

We will be learning about Moses this month and will learn about his early life through leading his people across the Red Sea. We will learn how God provided food for them in the desert and how God provides for all our needs, too. This month is a time for all of us to think about those less fortunate than us and we will talk about sharing our food like the Indians and Pilgrims. We will have a **Friendship Salad** on Mon.11/21 to celebrate the first Thanksgiving. Please send a piece of fruit (washed and cut up) with your child that day to share (**send their regular lunch the Feast is for downstairs rooms only**). We will be making Pilgrim hats to wear for Thanksgiving fun.

Last month we had a great time with the parachute, the fire drill, learning about Joseph's coat of many colors and the great Fall Festival (Thanks, Teacher Keri). We also were happy to welcome Madilyn and Ryan to our Chimp Jungle but are sad to say goodbye to Josh F. who is moving. He will be missed very much.

As you join family and friends this Thanksgiving, I wish you many blessings and thank you for sharing your little one with us!

**Happy Thanksgiving
from Teachers Debbie, Katie and Paula!**



Parachute Fun!



Noah shows us how to build an Ark

SAVE THE DATE

Our Mom's Day Out Christmas program is a hit every year! Make sure you put **Friday, December 9th** on your calendar and plan on meeting in the Main Sanctuary here at First Free at noon. Watch for more information to be coming home soon.



Happenings This Month

Announcing MDO's Fall Outreach 2011...

We are excited to welcome Gigi's Playhouse to the Rockford area! Gigi's Playhouse—Rockford LLC is a Down syndrome awareness and educational center that provides resources, specialized tutoring and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community. All of their programs are free to families, are therapeutic in nature and range in age from pre-natal diagnosis thru adulthood. Check your child's backpack for more information and a shopping list!



November at Mom's Day Out



November 7th— Special visitor Steve Cooper will be visiting the Chimps, Fish, Lions, Giraffes, and Mice classes.



November 18th— Children in the Chimps, Fish, Lions, Giraffes and Mice classes will get to visit with Moses and learn all about his relationship with and Love for God.



November 21st— The Lions, Giraffes & Mice classes become Indians and Pilgrims for a day and dine together for lunch and a special Thanksgiving Feast.



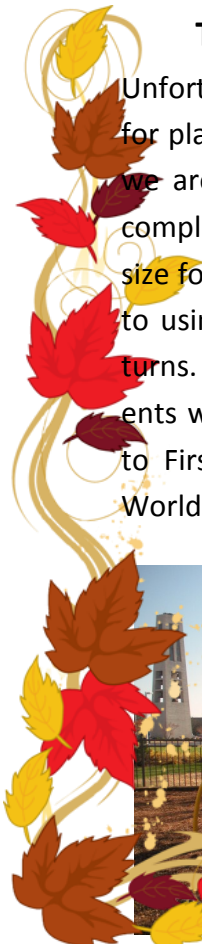
November 18th & 21st—TUMBILI! If your

TEACHERS UNABLE TO ANSWER CALLS DURING THE MDO DAY

The church office does not open until 9:00 a.m. If you need to call before that time, please call (815) 877-7040 and enter extension 272. This will bring you to Patti's voice mail to leave a message. After 9:00 a.m., you can call the church office (815) 877-7046 and either ask for Patti at ext. 272 or (if immediate assistance is needed) ask the receptionist to page Patti. If you should need to get information to your child's teacher any time during the MDO day, contact Patti and she can relay the message to the teacher. Teachers are unable to leave the

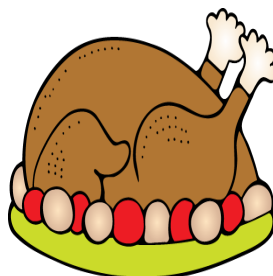
THE PLAYGROUND IS DONE!

Unfortunately the weather is not the best for playing on an outdoor playground. But... we are still incredibly blessed to have this completed. This playground is the perfect size for our MDO children. We look forward to using it as soon as the nice weather returns. Many thanks to all of our MDO parents who donated to this project as well as to First Free Church and Kids Around the World for installing it—boy were they fast!



MDO FIRE DRILL A SUCCESS!

This past month, MDO had our first fire drill. The fire alarm went off, and all of us (as well as all the First Free Church staff) followed our fire safety procedures and marched outside. It is amazing how few tears there were—most of which occurred when the children had to go back to their classrooms! Many rooms used this opportunity to talk about fire safety. MDO has been blessed with never having to have an actual fire alarm, but it is reassuring to know that we are well prepared in case this situation should occur.



**No Mom's Day Out
Friday, November 11th
AND
Friday, November 25th**



Mom's Day Out has a Facebook page. "Friend" us to get the latest information about your child's classroom!



First Evangelical Free Church

Rockford, Illinois

Bringing people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

Love God

Love One Another

Love the World

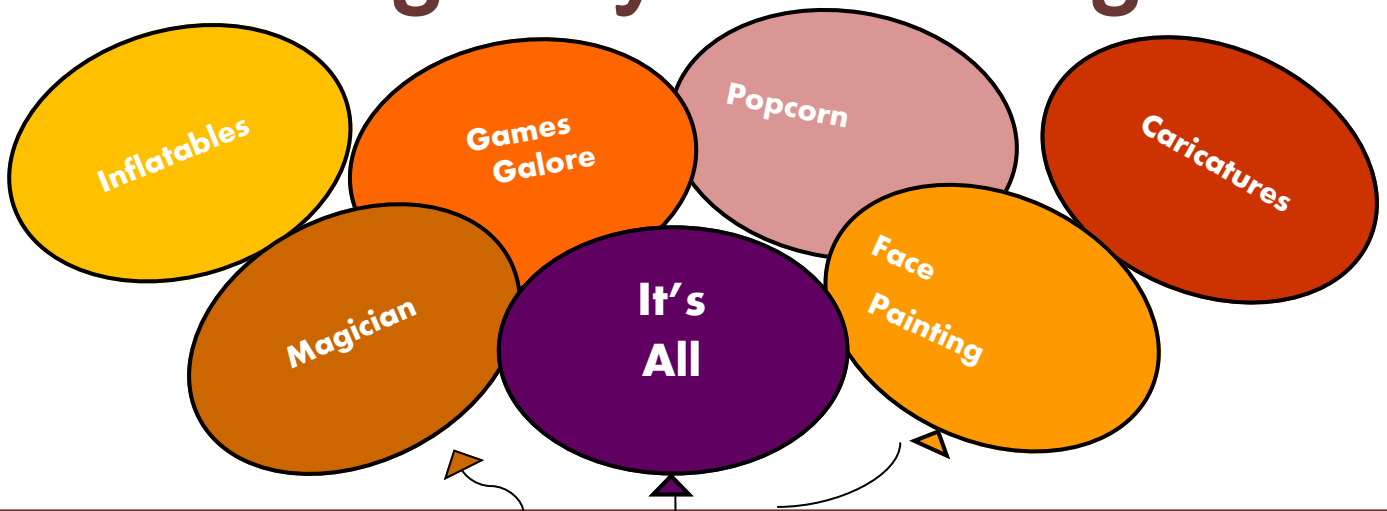
Love

Family Fun Fair

November 10th ~ 6:00-8:30

It's a Thursday, but there's no school on Friday!

Featuring Wayne the Magician



Upcoming Events at First Free for the Holidays:

November 23:

First Free Church's Thanksgiving service at 7 p.m. An evening of praise and thanksgiving to God. Music and scripture to encourage.

Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3:

Candle in the Window A Holiday drama and dessert for all ages. Contact Church for Times an ticket availability.

Sunday, December 18, 6:00 p.m.:

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound Christmas Concert at 6pm. Invite some friends and join us for this special Christmas Concert! Contact church to purchase tickets.

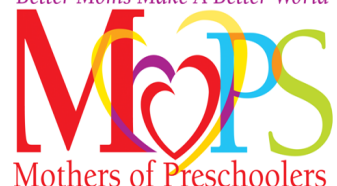


MOPS is a Christ-centered, caring ministry seeking to meet the unique needs of mothers with infant through kindergarten-aged children. MOPS is not a Bible study; rather, it involves instruction relating to womanhood, marriage, child-rearing specifically focused on preschoolers, and family relationships. All of these topics are based on biblical principles. We will be meeting from 8:45-11:15 a.m. here at First Free Church. Our November meeting days are:

Tuesday, Nov. 8th and

Tuesday, Nov. 22nd

Better Moms Make A Better World



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The mission of First Evangelical Free Church is to bring people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.