



Grace Children's Learning Center

A Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church

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Dear Families,

The GCLC School Advisory Board met last Friday, July 17 to consider our options for the 2020-21 School Year. After considerable research, planning, prayer and evaluation we voted unanimously to close for the up-coming school year. We considered re-evaluating every month/quarter, but decided it best for our families and staff to be able to move forward with a new plan. We did not want families to continuously develop stop gap plans causing additional stress for your child and yourself.

Our submitted plans for opening amid Covid-19 were approved by both the Virginia State Board of Education and Department of Licensing. If it was only about plans on paper the decision would have been much simpler. However, life is not always simple and certainly not fair. The bottom line is our students and staff are too precious for us to take the risks necessary to open at this time. The risk lies in the lives affected by the chance of spreading illness and loosing even one life. To open would be very hard work and while I know our staff is up to that challenge, logistically we question the feasibility to sustain our program for the entire school year given the required parameters and possible forced shut down. .

I do not know what changes we will experience as the GCLC family, community, nation and world with the virus over the next few months, but I do know we are committed and will be ready to reopen when the time and situation are right for our building and program. We look forward to working on our building, classrooms and programs so when we welcome you back home it will be the best home coming ever.

We will continue to monitor and up-date our website at umcgrace.org/gclc and Facebook page, so please keep sharing pictures and videos of your amazing children. You can also reach us by email at gclcangels@gmail.com. More details will be coming this week to you via email regarding the logistics of the 20-21 year closure, including registration fees, personal items and paper work. We have attached a short video for you regarding the closure. The link is as follows: Share recording with viewers: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/u51WNO6ttUpJGIHv7Xjna54HQYXPX6a81SdP-PcMnUcYlw3bxXZs5NjqaRDZJRj2> Password: V5WtTx5+

I am most appreciative to each of you for sharing your child(ren) with us over the years. Our GCLC staff and families have been blessed beyond measure by your child's participation in our programs. Your interest and support of our programs and staff have allowed us to build this family with you. This was not an easy decision, but we believe it was the right decision and how we can best put our children and staff first at this time. I realize many of you will need to search for alternate school and day care options. I hope you will find a place where your "Lil' Angel" is loved and nurtured and that we will one day again be back together at Grace.

Blessings,
Ms. Susan