

Dear Friends,

September 26, 2007

Our church supports families and children by maintaining a strong and growing religious education program, by nurturing the spiritual lives of parents, and by providing opportunities for fellowship.

This fall, however, there's one aspect of support for families missing from our church: the playground.

Because of safety concerns with aging equipment, church volunteers removed equipment from the playground last spring while a new playground plan was created. A committee of church members, informed by recommendations from our children, youth and adults, has developed a design for a playground as called for in the strategic plan created by the congregation last year.

We need your help to make the playground design a reality so our children will again have a place to play at church. We invite you to make a special donation to our playground fund.

What does having a playground mean to families at our church? Church member and parent Anne Newman explained how she sees the benefits of the playground:

"I think it's important that our children have a place for socialization, a place outside the structured classroom. As adults, we know that having time to sip coffee and visit informally after the service is a great way to form lasting friendships and to welcome visitors to the church. Our children need time and space for the very same things."

Let's hear from some of the young people who have grown up with a place to play outside at church.

"It's a way to get some energy out of our systems before church, and it helps me get to know my friends at church in a different kind of way." Evan McDermott, 11

"I interacted with kids of all different ages. We had unconventional ways of playing on the equipment." Tad Boehmer, 18

"I have good memories of planting things on the playground, of playing games with my friends and swinging on the swings." Caroline Beshers, 12

It's clear that the playground is a big part of the warm, happy memories of church held by our young people. Parents say the playground offers a way to meet and visit with other parents, and that it sends a clear signal that our church values its children and young families.

Help us create warm memories for new generations of UU children with an exciting, safe place for them to play and explore. Please send your gift by Thanksgiving in the enclosed addressed envelope. See the attached sheet for more playground details and for information on how you can make a dedication with your gift.

Sincerely,

The Playground Committee

Marty Williams, Emily Laugesen, Mary Barrineau and Renée Cogil

Playground Gift Opportunities

Here's a list of equipment and safety material we plan to purchase or build for the playground. Please use this list to guide your imagination and generosity.

Can you help purchase part of the tire swing, or one-fifth of the Little Tykes climber for toddlers to scramble up and down? Can you contribute a portion of the cost of a different kind of play structure that provides endless climbing, balancing and body coordination opportunities, and is accessible for handicapped children? Can you fund one of seven activity stations incorporating the UU Seven Principles?

Please make your donation by Thanksgiving so our planning can proceed. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members. **Thank you!**

GroundZero PE710 play structure	\$7,950
Tire swing	\$2,600
Little Tykes climber	\$ 500
Little Tykes playhouse	\$ 500
UU seven principles stations	\$ 700
Living hideaway	\$ 500
Manufactured wood chips for ground cushioning	\$2,000
Border for wood chips	\$ 400
Cement work	\$1,000
Two benches	\$ 790
Supervisor for building day	\$1,000
Shipping and handling	\$1,500
Total	\$19,440

Yes, I am pleased to be able to make a contribution toward the renovation of our church playground. I would like my donation to be in honor/memory of

_____. (Please attach or submit later a written dedication, which we will reformat and include in a UU Church Playground Dedication Book. Provide a photo if you wish.) Enclosed please find my gift of \$_____, which is to be used to purchase the following item(s): _____ or to purchase to any items in the playground plan. (On the memo line of your check please write "Playground.")

Signature: _____