



# the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition

August 2011



 **Trinity**  
United Methodist Church

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## POWERSOURCE

### ASK GOD:

1. To help your children follow Jesus as the ultimate hero and role model.
2. To strengthen you to be an example of heroic faith for your family.
3. To guide you as you share news of Jesus' "heroism" with others.

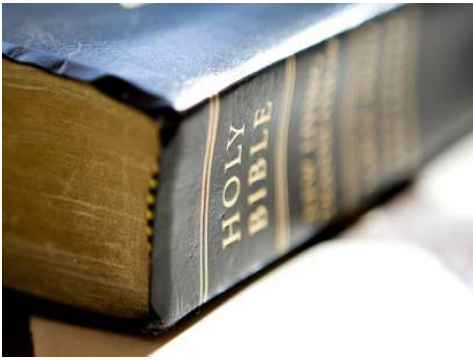
## Help Your Kids Be Faith Heroes

Children's heroes can be fictional or real, from cartoon and movie characters to pop singers and fire fighters. The Bible is filled with faith heroes whom God used to fulfill his plan of salvation. But not all of these heroes were adults. David, a shepherd boy, defeated the giant Goliath, and Mary was a teenager who gave birth to our Savior. God doesn't put an age limit on being a faith hero. Kids of all ages are doing—and can do—mighty things for God's kingdom.

Sometimes children have trouble thinking of people in the Bible as anything more than fictional. They may show more interest in celebrities or athletes and strive to be like them. So it's important to help children put themselves in biblical people's shoes. Together, explore their lives and times, consider their fears and emotions, and try to get inside their skin. Ask children how they would feel and react in similar situations. This is a great way for kids to apply the Bible to their lives—and to show them that as Christians, they themselves figure in the great history God is writing. Read on for more tips about raising young faith heroes.

### INSIGHTS

- In a 2010 U.K. poll, children listed their fathers as their top hero. Moms came in at number three. Also making the list were Hannah Montana, their teacher, SpongeBob SquarePants, and Grandpa. (*Children's Mutual*)
- 77 percent of Americans say celebrities and athletes have far too much influence on kids. (*Newsweek*)
- Only 25% of kids report that adults talk with them about their personal values. (*Search Institute*)



“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

The apostle Paul assured Timothy that even though he was young, God could use Timothy in a big way.

## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**1. Hero Journal**—This summer, help children see how God is using them. First, list the talents and abilities God has given each child. Then write ways that kids can use their talents to honor God. Whenever you or kids notice that God is using them, jot down the date and what happened. At summer’s end, have a Hero Party (complete with hero sandwiches) and share journal excerpts.

**2. Read All About It!**—Be alert for stories of young heroes in your neighborhood and beyond. Share the accounts with your children to give them ideas about the incredible things they can accomplish.

**3. Big-Screen Heroes**—With older kids and preteens, watch movies that feature faith heroes; for example, *Soul Surfer*, about Bethany Hamilton, and *Chariots of Fire*, about Olympian Eric Liddell. Then discuss how the characters faced fears, made decisions, showed heroism, and trusted in God’s plans.



**Use these conversation starters to get kids thinking about the ways they can be heroes for God:**

1. Who are your heroes, and why? How do you try to be like them?
2. In what ways is God or Jesus your hero? What has he done for you that’s special and unique?
3. What can you do or say to be a hero for God at home? at school? at church? How can God help you with this goal?

## FAMILY EXPERIENCE

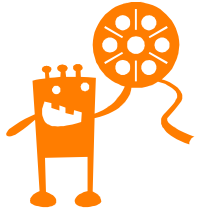
**These activities will help your family members explore what it means to live heroically and confidently for God.**

- **Excellent Examples**—Write the words *speech, life, love, faith,* and *purity* on index cards. Then put the cards in a bag or hat. Have family members take turns picking a card and acting out a situation of being a good example of what’s on the card. Keep the cards in a visible location. Throughout the week, encourage family members to share new ways they’ve lived out their faith.
- **Confidence Carryall**—Collect and clean some empty containers, such as tall potato chip cans. Set out construction paper, markers, and stickers and have each family member decorate his or her own can. Ask: “On a scale of one to 10, how bold would you say you are, and why? What are some things that frighten you? Do heroes always have to be bold? Why or why not?”



Read aloud Hebrews 4:16. Say: “When we’re afraid, we can always talk to God, who makes us strong and helps us.” Have family members brainstorm things they’re confident about and write or draw them on slips of paper. (Help younger children.) Ideas can range from riding a bike and tying a shoe to knowing that Jesus loves me and hears my prayers.

Have everyone put the slips in their containers. Say: “Any time you feel shy about talking to God or being a hero for him, open your Confidence Carryall. Then remember what it feels like to be bold, with God’s help.”



# MEDIA MADNESS



## MOVIES

**Movie:** *The Smurfs*

**Genre:** Live-action/animated 3D

**Rating:** PG (for some mild rude humor and action)

**Cast:** Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Hank Azaria, Katy Perry

**Synopsis:** When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the Smurfs, they get scattered and are transported to modern-day New York. The Smurfs hide out with a married couple while they figure out how to return to their Middle Ages village.

**Our Take:** Although this movie isn't filled with profound take-away messages, parents who grew up with the Smurfs may enjoy introducing their children to the cartoon characters.



## MUSIC

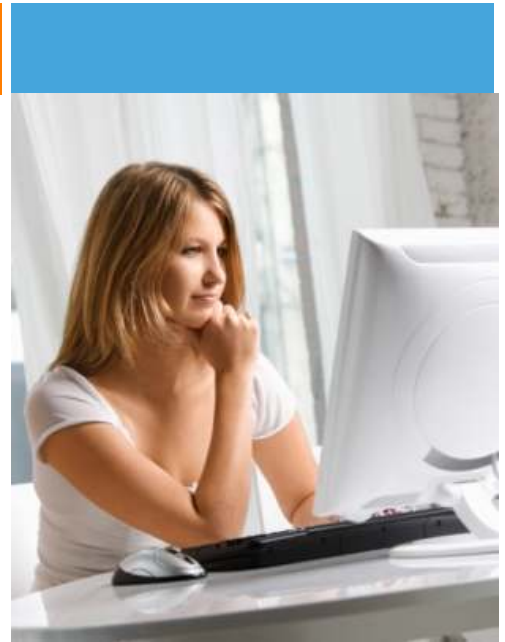
**Artist:** Steven Curtis Chapman

**Album:** *re:creation*

**Artist Info:** Chapman, 48, is a multi-platinum contemporary Christian musician, as well as an adoption advocate. His 5-year-old daughter, Maria Sue, died in a driveway accident in 2008.

**Summary:** Chapman's 17<sup>th</sup> album contains five new songs, as well as "reimagined" recordings of his eight biggest hits. The first single, "Do Everything," emphasizes that everything we do is an act of worship and should glorify God.

**Our Take:** Chapman's hope-filled lyrics are set to upbeat tunes that aim to strengthen relationships with God. His music is beloved by Christians of all ages.



## CULTURE & TRENDS

- Birth mothers are using Facebook to track down children they put up for adoption—sometimes before the children have been told they're adopted. *(New York Times)*
- Many states are halting Medicaid coverage for circumcision, and private insurers are expected to follow suit. Meanwhile, some upcoming ballot measures aim to ban the procedure.

## QUICK STATS

- 50% of parents say that having children has had no influence on their decision to attend church on a regular basis. *(Children's Ministry Magazine)*
- 101 million Sony PlayStation Network accounts, mostly owned by kids, have been hacked into, putting personal info at risk.



## GAMES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Fruit Ninja Kinect</i>	Players move their arms to "slice" through assorted produce in this popular gaming phenomenon.	E; Xbox 360
<i>Junior Mystery Quest</i>	By solving problems, players become detectives who reveal the true identities of various characters.	E; Nintendo DS
<i>Riddler.com</i>	This online site features trivia, card games, word puzzles, and multiplayer online games. Membership is free, but parents must set up the account.	Most games are appropriate for ages 10+.

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.



# August 2011

## Children and Family News and Events at Trinity UMC

### Imagine No Malaria

Summer is that season when our annoying "biting" friends arrive by the millions... mosquitoes. Now, Michigan enjoys many inside jokes about the pest and we brush it off or spray it OFF with ease, but in Africa the mosquito brings death. Families in regions of Africa are plagued by malaria that is brought to them by the mosquito. They do not have the pesticides nor the medicines to deal with this killer. But the People of the United Methodist Church are determined to make a difference. Imagine No Malaria is a campaign to provide \$10 bed nets that are treated with an insecticide that will protect a family as they sleep, the common time to be bitten by the bug. \$10 will provide a bed net and an educator that will help the villages deal with this disease.

The Children of Trinity are kicking off a six month campaign to raise a minimum of \$500 dollars to help Imagine No Malaria succeed. Watch for opportunities during worship, in Sunday School, on the Web or in the newsletters that can help us reach that goal. Learn more about at [ImagineNoMalaria.org](http://ImagineNoMalaria.org). WE CAN Imagine No Malaria ... if we step forward and try!

### VBS Day!

**Saturday, August 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Elks Campground in Muskegon, MI**

Hopefully, you have already RSVP'd for *Beach Party, Surfin' Through The Scriptures* VBS Day! Lunch is provided at Noon at the Pavilion Picnic area. The 1:30 p.m. block time is for families to enjoy the play area, beach or continue some handwork in the pavilion, then at 4 p.m. we'll re-gather for the closing of VBS with music and a skit. A Potluck BBQ follows (provided: hot dogs/buns, condiments, plates/cutlery etc, lemonade). Please bring sides or desserts. Families are free to stay or to leave following the potluck.

We need volunteers for rotation teams (music, opening and closing), welcome team (with nametags and forms), lunch team (help with set up and distribution of meal), BBQ team (grill dogs, set-up) and decorations team. Contact Nichea Guy to help ([orangeclt00@aol.com](mailto:orangeclt00@aol.com), 456.7168).

### Marshmallows and Fireflies

**Wednesday, August 24 to Sunday, August 28 at Albright Campground**

Come for all the time or for part of it! Camping sites and cabins, fire bowls, kayaking, canoeing, hike n' bike the Rails to Trails, swimming pool or you can just relax!

Many of our families at Trinity Family Camp have asked for a more informal time to camp this summer... here is your opportunity! Campsites are \$25 per night, Cabins are \$50 and \$60. Contact Albright Campground to reserve your spot ([albright.campground@yahoo.com](mailto:albright.campground@yahoo.com)). Questions? Contact Nichea Ver Veer Guy ([orangeclt00@aol.com](mailto:orangeclt00@aol.com), 456.7158).

### J.U.M.P.! (Jesus, Use Me Please!)

**Sunday, September 11, at 9:30 a.m.**

Come, join us in celebrating Children's Ministry at Trinity! Visit classrooms, register your children, experience the exciting curriculums. Discover ways you can volunteer to embrace the children of Trinity!

Enjoy Toe-Jam Tonic... have fun foot-painting... enter the Wackiest Flip-Flop Contest... and "Kick-Off" another season of amazing opportunities for your Family! Questions? Contact Nichea Ver Veer Guy ([orangeclt00@aol.com](mailto:orangeclt00@aol.com), 616.456.7168).

### Are You Ready to Help Our Children J.U.M.P.?

We are looking for volunteers to JUMP on board and help in our classrooms. We could use your unique "LEAP" of talents! We have three classrooms we need help with on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

- Pre-School-Early Kindergarten (Hands-On Bible Curriculum, more fun than a "barrel of monkeys")
- Children and Worship (Biblical stories and expression)
- 4/5th Grade (Hands-On Bible Curriculum, encouraging preteens to apply their faith in everyday living)

Consider giving of yourself and be a part of a volunteer team in one of these classrooms! JUMP at this opportunity to share! If you're interested, contact Nichea ([orangeclt00@aol.com](mailto:orangeclt00@aol.com), 456.7168).