



# SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

February 2020 Newsletter

## Valentine's Day

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on **Friday, February 14**. Please see your child's teacher for details on celebrations. Children are welcome to exchange Valentines with classmates and/or anyone in our Center. Valentine lists have been put in children's go-home folders (on pink paper) and have been e-mailed out to parents in electronic form. I put the entire Center on one list to simplify the process.



## OPEN President's Day

The Center will be open on President's Day, Monday, February 17.



*Three Preschool girls enjoy coloring while wearing fairy wings*

## Sunscreen Authorization Forms

Please make sure you fill out and turn in a 2020 Sunscreen Authorization Form. Forms are in child folders, or you can grab one from our front desk. Thank you!

## Welcome Samantha

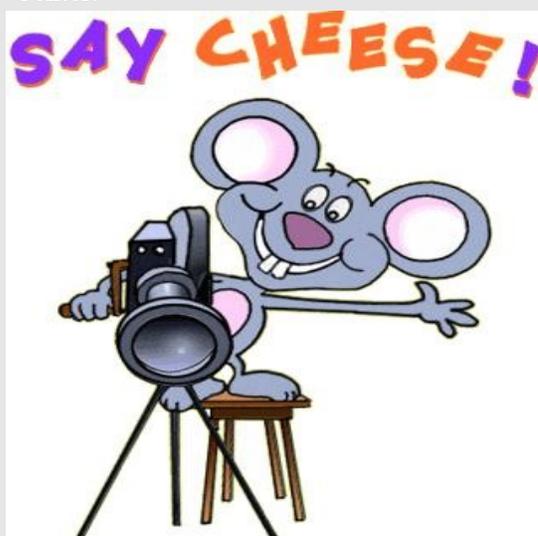
We have a new staff member, Samantha. She comes to us with two years of college-level American Sign Language, as well as other college-level education courses. Samantha has also been an infant and child swim instructor. Please help us welcome her to our Center.

## Picture Day

Our annual **Picture Day** will be **Friday, April 17**. Class and individual photos will be taken and will be available for purchase. Stay tuned for more details!

## Save the Date

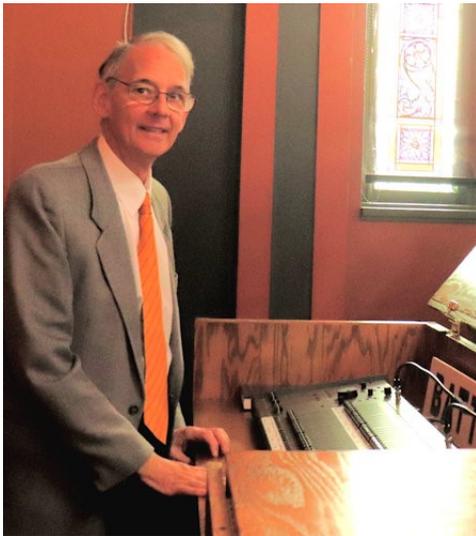
The annual Sarah Corson Center Family Day at the Medford Railroad Park will be **Saturday, June 27 from a.m. to noon**. All Sarah Corson Center children and their families are invited to attend.



—Jaime Snider, director

# An out-of-this-world project

By PAULETTE AVERY



**Tom McDermott at the light master control**

ty partners using more complex equipment to collect and analyze the data. Expect a string of scientific papers over coming years as work unfolds.

Tom uses his background as an electrical engineer to help figure out the design of one of the experiments within this project and for development of the needed hardware.

He also participates in weekly project calls and attends one or two conferences a year where he presents papers on his work.

Tom calls this project “citizen science.” Amateur scientists participate along with professionals.

Frissell, the project leader, says changes in the ionosphere can affect both radio transmission and satellites which in turn affect the Internet, cellular telephones, and the use of global positioning devices. If you would like more information about this complex subject, have a chat with Tom sometime at coffee hour.

The guy who runs our church sound system and manages the church website is part of a team trying to solve scientific mysteries of Earth’s outer atmosphere. Tom McDermott, a retired electrical engineer, writes experiments and thinks about equipment needed to learn more about the ionosphere.

The ionosphere is a layer of the earth’s atmosphere which reflects radio waves and lies between 50 and 600 miles above the earth’s surface.

Tom has been at Medford First since 2014. He currently volunteers on the church maintenance team along with controlling the sound and lights most Sundays for the 10:30 a.m. service. Like many in our congregation, he also volunteers outside of the church, but in Tom’s case that volunteer activity is unique.

Since 2017, Tom spends 15 to 20 hours a week on a project intended to measure the response of the ionosphere to “sources from above (space weather) and below (atmospheric forcing).” The project, led by Nathaniel Frissell, a professor of physics and electrical engineering at the University of Scranton, received a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation grant.

The project will eventually make use of a team of ham radio operators using small, inexpensive weather stations and a team of universi-



## Comfort bag project

A new ministry began as Women’s Fellowship and the Mission Committee learned about needs of homeless women. At a gathering in mid-January they heard from Officer Jenny Newell, a member of Medford Police Department’s new Livability Team, and from a one-time homeless woman now working for Rogue Retreat’s ministry to street people.

The police team matches street people with community resources. Our project is assembling “comfort bags” filled with items such as shampoo, lotion, Kleenex, socks, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, etc.

The group of 25 women assembled 100 bags and promised to make it an on-going project every few months. Bags will be handed out by our church office and by Rogue Retreat.

## Under construction

Our Narthex and office are under construction this month as part of two projects. The small administrative office is being expanded by moving its back wall about three feet. The hard-to-clean carpet in the Narthex is being replaced with composition tile flooring. Most of the major work should be completed by the time you read this. Anonymous gifts are paying for the work.

The projects are scheduled within the surgery and recovery schedule of our office administrator, Elizabeth Mahan. She had knee replacement surgery January 28. She’ll be gone for a few weeks.

We’ll have volunteers in the office from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday to answer the phones and take messages.