

News Release

Grace United Methodist Church
Coal Center, PA
June 29, 2018

Directors of the Grace Christian Education Center, a non-profit school of Grace United Methodist Church, Coal Center, PA announced that they have voted unanimously to hire Susan Renee Heckler as the Director of their school. Hiring of Mrs. Heckler follows a nationwide search by the Board of Directors of the Grace Christian Education Center This school was created by the church to focus on early childhood education and development within a Christian setting.

Mrs. Heckler will begin her new role on July 2, 2018, as the Director of the Christian Education Center, Grace United Methodist Church. Previously, she served as Director/Program Coordinator of Smartkids Learning Centers, Meadowlands, PA. where she was employed since 2006. During her successful career, Mrs. Heckler served in various leadership positions with Kindercare in Burlington, NJ from 1993 to 2005.

She completed her bachelors degree in Elementary Education at California University, California, PA with a focus on Early Childhood Development. Mrs. Heckler then received her Director Credentials from Northampton Community College. She has been successful in guiding her employers through the important process of earning accreditation from NAEYC (National Association For The Education of Young Children) and Keystone STARS, Level 4.

When speaking of the appointment, Reverend Kenneth Custer, pastor at Grace United Methodist Church stated, "hiring of Mrs. Heckler satisfies criteria critical for effective Christian leadership and success in developing, and leading, early childhood learning programs." Mr. Belski , Chairman of the Board, Grace Christian Education Center also stated that "families and children attending Grace Christian Education Center will have access to the highest level of instructional methodology and a faith based curriculum promoting STEM, critical thinking and opportunities for accelerated learning." Mrs. Heckler commented that she was "attracted to serve as the Director of the Christian Educational Center because of

the unique opportunity to implement the clear vision of the Board of Directors and to serve the children and families from multiple communities surrounding our church."

The Christian Education Center of Grace United Methodist Church is scheduled to open for the Fall semester, 2018. Applications for admission are currently being accepted for children ages 3 years to 6. The Center will be operate 5 days per week, from 7:00 AM until 5:30 PM. Pre-K will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. For additional information please refer to the church web site, gracecoalcenter.org.