

Halloween Safety

Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children. Using safety tips and common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season and make it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you. We would like parents and youngsters to keep some important safety tips in mind:

- Make sure children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager when they go door-to-door. Please don't let them go alone; go with them if you can.
- Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and the treats have been examined. Do not allow children to eat any homemade goodies or food they may have received.
- Check the treat wrappers for signs of tampering.
- Throw out any suspicious treats.
- Make sure children's costume fit, they are short enough to prevent tripping and that they can see well. Remember, using face paint makes it easier to see than wearing a mask.
- Tell your children to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood and to stay on well-lit streets. Daylight hours are the best!

- Teach your children not to go inside or in the back or side yard of any home.
- If children are going to be out after dark, make sure they carry a flashlight. Any amount of reflective clothing or tape is also a good idea.
- Know which friends your children will be with and which route they will be taking.
- Leave your porch light on, so children will know it is okay to visit your home.
- Teach your children to use the sidewalks and to watch out for traffic.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and could become frightened.

Be Safe and Have Fun!

The Ministry Protection Memo (MPM) series is offered as an educational tool in support of Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church's property and casualty insurance program to help you develop loss control procedures to suit your specific needs. With these publications, Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church does not seek to establish a particular standard of care or to promote legal advice. We encourage church leaders to consult with competent attorneys with regard to their specific loss control need. Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages reproduction and distribution of this MPM within denomination.

Ministry Protection Memo

"MPM" is a series on various topics relative to Church and safety. Send your comments and interests to Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church's Director of Risk Management.

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