

Some Side Door FAQs for kids and parents:  
(please keep this for reference during the year)

- What is Side Door?** an after school drop-in program for Montclair middle-school students which provides a fun alternative to "hanging out" Uptown or being home alone
- Who can come?** any Montclair middle-school student (in grades 6 - 8)
- When is it open?** most Fridays after school from 2:15 - 5:00 pm (there's a calendar with exact dates on the back!)
- Where is it?** 176 Cooper Ave. in Upper Montclair (Union Congregational Church)
- How many kids come?** it depends on the week... last year we averaged 55 kids/week
- Can new kids come?** We have new kids signing up every week. We love new kids.
- What do you do there?** Lots of stuff! We have ping-pong, foosball, air hockey, basketball and other outdoor sports (weather permitting), movies, board games, crafts and quiet activities, plus special events.... **Come check it out!**
- Is there food?** We always have free sandwiches, snacks and water, plus pizza for \$1/slice, and soda for \$.50 and candy and snacks for sale.
- Can I leave and come back?** You can come and go as often as you wish... we just ask that you do so quietly and that you sign in and out each time.
- Are there rules?** You must: **sign in** each time you arrive, **sign out** each time you leave, **wear a nametag**, and **cooperate** with the adults and other volunteers. You are expected to **respect yourself, respect others, and to respect the Side Door space**. If you are unable to follow these rules, we may ask you to leave. Other than that, just have fun!
- Does it cost anything to attend?** While attendance is free, we depend on donations from families to run this program. Last year Side Door cost over \$20,000 to run. **Please donate.**
- What do I have to do to come?** Show up! After a few weeks we will need a completed registration form on file for each child (please complete both sides!). **Both the parent and child need to fill it out.** You can mail it to the church or you can bring it when you come (do NOT turn it in at school!). You can also fill out the form online on the [sidedoormontclair.org](http://sidedoormontclair.org) website.

(more info for parents/caregivers on back)



UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
176 Cooper Ave., Montclair, NJ 07043

## Side Door Highlights for parents and caregivers:

Side Door is run by Union Congregational Church, which also provides funding. We receive generous grants from the Montclair Fund for Women, the Montclair Foundation, and the Montclair Community Intervention Alliance (Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse). Supervision is provided by our staff, MSU and MHS student volunteers, and parent/community adult volunteers. **We ALWAYS welcome parents** who can spend an hour or two (monitoring sign-in, etc.), so please email us or give us a call. Even an hour of your time can make a difference to the program. In addition, we rely on your **monetary donations, or donations of soda and/or, or snacks**. Contact us if you would like to donate snacks or drinks. Last year the program cost over \$20,000 to run.

**To register your child(ren)**, complete the form online ([sidedoormontclair.org](http://sidedoormontclair.org)) or fill out the printed registration form (both sides!) and have your child hand it in when he/she comes to Side Door, or mail it directly to the church. Do NOT send it in to the school. We **MUST** have a completed form on file for your child (ren) to attend after the first few weeks.

Side Door attendees are expected to abide by our rules and to conduct themselves in a responsible and safe manner. They must sign in and out, and wear a nametag while on church property. (The rules are listed on the registration form.) If they are unable to abide by the rules they may be asked to leave.

If you need to reach your child during Side Door, please make arrangements to contact them via cell phone. While there is a phone for outgoing calls, **there's no way to reach your child via the church's phone number**. Please do NOT call the church to reach your child. You can try my cell phone (973 809-9581) but I can't guarantee I will hear your call (things can get pretty noisy!).

Please note that **we close PROMPTLY at 5 pm**. If you think you might be late, make arrangements to meet your child at an alternate pick-up site (such as the Bellevue MPL Branch or Starbucks). . Your child **CANNOT** remain on church property after 5:15 pm.

If a backpack or jacket is left behind, contact the director (info below) to arrange a pick-up time. Abandoned items are hung on the hooks by our door so that you can pick them up when the building is open.

Side Door Calendar September 2019 - June 2020	
	January 24, 31
September 20, 27	February 7, 14, 21, 28
October 4, 11, 18, 25	March 13, 20
November 1, 15, 22	April 3, 24
December 13, 20	May 1, 8, 15, 29
	June 5
If the Montclair Public Schools are closed, or close early due to bad weather, Side Door is CLOSED as well. Please note we are NOT open on holidays or early release days.	

[Sidedoormontclair.org](http://Sidedoormontclair.org) has an online version of our registration form, our calendar, and pdfs of all forms. We are on Facebook -MontclairSideDoor - and emergency calendar changes are posted there.

Director: Susan Johnson [sidedoor@unioncong.org](mailto:sidedoor@unioncong.org), 973 809-9581 (cell)  
Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Ave., Montclair, NJ 07043