



FAMILIES & KIDS NEWSLETTER

Offering practical, spiritual, and fun resources for families following Jesus together.

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May-June 2016

A NEW LOOK FOR SUMMER

The weather is still chilly but summer is just around the corner! This year summer at Reservoir Church will look a little different than it has in the past—hopefully in ways that will fit with your schedule and provide even more opportunities for connection! Read on for details of programs, dates, and special events.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Our post-Easter series about Jesus' resurrection appearances culminates with the Story of Pentecost which falls on June 4 this year. Then we'll have time for a couple of stories about Peter and Paul before a short summer break.

Our 5-week summer series that begins on July 16 will explore sheep and shepherds, together one of the key metaphors in the Bible. We'll learn about King David who began as a shepherd, challenge ourselves to learn Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd"), remember the shepherds from the nativity story, and hear the parable of the Good Shepherd. Alongside our usual Bible storytelling, we'll explore some nature, science, and geography facts about sheep and see what we can make with wool. We may even raise money for Heifer Project.

ELEMENTARY

In May the Elementary group is finishing up a unit on Acts of the Apostles. Acts is full of great stories of courage, adventure, and Holy Spirit power. We'll be sharing a few of those stories in large group, and the kids are getting the chance to explore some of the others as they work on creating illustrations for our own Acts book project. Besides exposure to the stories, the project is also giving the kids some practice finding things in the Bible! In June we'll wrap up the school year by celebrating Pentecost and the Holy Spirit with a little extra worship (and maybe some treats).

Over the 5-week summer session we'll be talking about the five core values of Reservoir Church: Connection, Everyone, Action, Freedom, and Humility. We'll hear stories that illustrate concrete aspects of each value, and talk about how they affect the kids' experience of church—and offer them tools for their lives outside of church. As we've done the past few years, we'll also be changing up the structure of our mornings a little bit to give the kids a chance to work together across age groups—and also to play together out on the playground!



Kindergarten Lions at work with story materials.

YOUTH GROUP

In April we began our spring focus on justice by joining up with a few projects hosted by Reservoir in the City. Many of our youth and families joined community members in bringing personal hygiene items for refugee youth living in the foster care system in Massachusetts and packing them in new duffel bags on May 6.

We've been baking lots of goodies in youth group! We baked about a dozen trays of cookies to honor educators at the Banneker and Peabody, two neighborhood schools with whom we partner through Reservoir in the City. On Mother's Day and Father's Day, we are excited to offer a cafe where moms and dads can receive a blessing and a sweet treat.

Our biggest social action project is to raise \$1000 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. On June 24/25 members of our youth group will take turns walking around a track for 6-12 continuous hours. To participate or donate to our team goal, please visit www.RelayForLife.org/WinchesterMA.

Soon, we'll celebrate our graduating seniors with a special spiritual send-off dinner where important people in each senior's life are invited to celebrate their senior and pray blessing, life and encouragement for the transition to their next venture.

Our 5-week summer series will be about finding God in nature. We hope to be out in nature as often as possible, taking trips to Walden Pond, biking on trails, and climbing mountains.

CONTACT US

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LATE SPRING INTO SUMMER

May and June see us finishing up the school year in Kids Church, then there will be a three-week break before we begin our summer session.

FAMILIES CALENDAR

Thursday, May 18
Moms Night Out, 7-9 pm in the chapel.
Swap children's clothing, enjoy snacks, great conversation and prayer with other moms. Trecia Reavis shares this month about how "her life has been full of terrible disasters, most of which have never happened." Contact marianne@reservoirchurch.org.

Sunday, May 28
Memorial Day Weekend—No Kids Church.

Sunday, June 24/25
Relay for Life, 6pm-11pm, Manchester Field in Winchester
The Middle and High School Youth Groups will raise \$1000 for the American Cancer Society. To donate to team Reservoir Youth Group please visit RelayForLife.org/WinchesterMA.

Sunday, June 25
Summer Schedule begins.
One service at 10:30, through Sunday, September 3.

Sunday, June 25
Picnic on the Playground.
Bring lunch for your family or grab a bagel; we'll have watermelon, popsicles, and drinks to share.

Sundays, June 25- July 9
No Kids Church.
We take a break to allow our volunteers to rest and our staff to vacation and plan for the new school year.

Sunday, July 9
Family Outing to Walden Pond.
Join other families for an afternoon at the historic swimming hole—weather permitting!

Sunday, July 16
Kids Church Summer Session begins.
5-Week summer session of Kids Church at 10:30.

Sundays, August 20- September 3
No Kids Church.
Our end-of-summer break as we prepare for the new school year.

A picture from the Elementary Kids Church Book of Acts, available June 2017



SUMMER AT RESERVOIR

Summer church always feels a little different than during the school year, especially for families. This year it will be even more different, with a single service at 10:30 from June 25th through September 3rd. Our sanctuary holds lots of people, and we wanted to enjoy worshiping together all summer. A side benefit of this will be the opportunity for folks to meet up for lunch and make other afternoon plans together.

We're looking forward to kicking that off with a **picnic on the playground** following the service on June 25. We'll have watermelon, popsicles, and drinks to share; bring lunch for your family or grab a bagel, and connect with other families about your hopes and expectations for the summer.

On July 9, if the weather is fine, we'll be organizing an **outing to Walden Pond** in Concord. The pond is about 20 minutes away from church, right out Rt 2. Take a picnic lunch, play in the water, and explore the historic sites.



Walden Pond in April—expect more people in July!

Kids Church returns on July 16, when we begin our 5-week Summer session. With our summer service timing drop-off will run from 10:15-10:45, and we'll finish up with the end of the service at around noon. In all three groups the feel will be a little more relaxed and summery—though of course we're also excited about the content we'll be sharing!

There's always a lot going on over summer weekends. We hope you have some exciting plans to look forward to with your family and friends—and also that the Reservoir Church community will be a memorable part of your summer fun! There's still lots of room on the schedule for more great community events, so let us know if you have a great idea for a summer outing.