



FAMILIES & KIDS NEWSLETTER

Offering practical, spiritual, and fun resources for families following Jesus together.
www.reservoirchurch.org • families@reservoirchurch.org July-August 2017

RELAX & ENGAGE THIS SUMMER

Our one-service summer schedule has started, and we're looking forward to kicking off our five-week summer Kids and Youth program on July 16. Read on for details about that—plus possibilities for more summer fun and connection!—along with some news about a change in our Youth Ministry leadership.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

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 and sheep's milk. We also hope to raise money for Heifer International by doing Chores for Change. Heifer International provides animals to families around the world to help end hunger, poverty and support sustainable agriculture and commerce. Each family who receives an animal shares the gift by passing on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. So please be thinking of extra chores and jobs your child can do around the house to raise some change for Heifer. We're aiming to raise \$120 so we can contribute a sheep.

ELEMENTARY

Over the five weeks of our summer session we're going to be talking about the five core values of our church community: Connection, Everyone, Action, Freedom, and Humility. Each week we'll share stories from the Bible and elsewhere as we think what those values mean and how we can practice them in our own lives. Of course, we'll also be making plenty of time for summer fun! Rather than meeting in age-based small groups over the summer, we'll be setting up a selection of art and craft stations that the kids can choose from in the first part of the morning. Then after our worship and story they'll have the option to go out to the playground for the second half of our time together.

YOUTH GROUP

On June 24 members of our youth group took turns walking around a track for six hours as part of the Relay for Life. We are so grateful to you, our church community, for helping us fund-raise \$1826.22 for the American Cancer Society and conclude our month of social action—surpassing our \$1000 goal. The youth feel seen, supported, and bolstered by our church. Thank you!



Enthusiastic customers for treats and Italian ice at the Youth Group Relay for Life bake sale.

This summer, the middle and high schoolers will be headed off on adventures. For each of our five summer Sundays, the middle schoolers will have a fun field trip loosely organized around Genesis 1 (Example: "God said, 'Let the water flow together in one place,'" so we will walk down the street and go to the pool.) There will also be activities and trips planned for the high schoolers, including trips into Davis Square for coffee, tea, and ice cream, and other adventures organized around people's availability and interests. It will be a summer of fun and community building, as well as planning for the year ahead.

CONTACT US

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SUMMER ADVENTURES & PROGRAMS

From June 25th through September 3rd, we're hosting a **single Sunday service at 10:30 am**. Our sanctuary holds lots of people, and we want to enjoy worshipping together all summer. A side benefit is the opportunity for folks to meet up for lunch and make other afternoon plans together.

Last Sunday, we hosted a bring-your-own picnic on the playground. On July 9, we invite you to pack a lunch and follow Dan and Leah Archibald and their boys out to **Walden Pond** for an afternoon of swimming, relaxing, and connection. We hope there will be more events on future summer Sundays—you can check reservoirchurch.org/events to see what's being planned. And you too can host an outing or activity! Let us know what you have in mind and we'll help you get the word out.



A moment from the playground picnic on June 25.

This summer Kids Church and Youth Group will be meeting for a **five-week summer session** on July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, and August 13. Check-in will happen between 10:15 and 10:45 am. We're taking a three-week break at the beginning and end of summer: Kids Church will be off July 2 and July 9, and again August 20, August 27, and September 3. We're looking forward to having the children join us in "Big Church" for these Sundays. These short breaks also allow for some summer rest for our volunteers, and some planning and cleaning and vacation time for our staff.

FAMILIES CALENDAR

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| Sundays, July 2 and 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. Look for outings and gatherings after the service, or organize one of your own! |
| Sunday, September 10 | Kids Church and Youth Group resume. We're back in action at 9:30, kicking off the 2017-2018 academic year. |

YOUTH MINISTRY CHANGES

After lots of conversation with each other and with Steve Watson, Michaiiah Healy and Tory Tolles have decided to change the focus of their ministries here at Reservoir. Michaiiah has joyfully invested 9 years pastoring our youth as a volunteer and staff person. She is also passionate about prayer, the Holy Spirit and justice. Tory, who has been leading our community partnerships through Reservoir in the City, has been eager to work more directly with youth. On July 1, Tory will become our new youth pastor and Michaiiah will become an assistant pastor focusing on prayer, Holy Spirit ministry and community partnerships. We've hosted one meeting already and we'll plan more opportunities for you to meet Tory and the youth ministry team in September. Meanwhile, we know you'll want to express your gratitude to Michaiiah for faithfully caring for and mentoring your children these many years.

Michaiiah: It's been nothing short of JOY to have led and served the youth and families of this community for the past three years. Serving in youth ministry has always felt like breathing in fresh air and I am fully confident that these existing relationships will continue even as I transition out of my specific leadership in youth ministry into ministries of prayer and civic engagement amongst our church's city leaders. Tory has a rich relationship with God and commitment to personal growth and spiritual maturity that will undoubtedly inspire our youth week to week. I know Tory will lead our young people with humility, love, and deep understanding. What a treat.

Tory: Before coming on staff with Reservoir Church, I taught middle and high school science for five years. While I've loved my time building relationships with neighbors and city partners, I'm super excited to spend more time being with young people again. I have worked with youth for a long time: teaching, coaching, and helping with Sunday School and youth group since I was in middle school myself. I am passionate about community building and healthy risk-taking, and I'm eager to seek Jesus' joy, peace, and life alongside Reservoir youth. In my free time, I like to run, read, and explore outside with my husband and one-year-old daughter and our dog.



Michaiiah and Tory with some friends at the Relay for Life.