



FAMILIES & KIDS NEWSLETTER

Offering practical, spiritual, and fun resources for families following Jesus together.
www.reservoirchurch.org • families@reservoirchurch.org **September 2017**

DIVE INTO CONNECTION THIS FALL

With our return to two Sunday services on September 3rd and Kids Church and Youth Group kicking off on the 10th, it feels like a chance for new beginnings! We'd like to invite you and your family into renewed connection this season with programs for young people from babies through high school, plus family-friendly community groups and a retreat in October. Read on for all the details, and our fall calendar.



BABIES AND TODDLERS

We have a wonderful team of folks who look after our under twos during the 9:30 AM service. The baby/toddler room is on the first floor of the ministry center. We maintain a safe ratio of 1 adult to 2 children in this room, so please be understanding if one Sunday you find the room oversubscribed. Children are always welcome in the main services. Little ones love to move to the music so consider taking them up front during worship. If your child needs space to move around, or vocalize, during quieter moments of the service, you can also follow the service from the play area in the dome.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

We invite children to connect with God through an approach called Godly Play. Each week our storytellers share a Bible story and encourage children's honest responses by asking open-ended questions that begin "I wonder..." I wonder what part of the story you like best? I wonder what part of the story is most important? I wonder where you are in this story? Godly Play encourages the children to practice spiritual listening and develop a habit of wonder about the Bible and about God and how they fit into God's Big Story. The children and their mentors, learn together to trust that the Bible is a fit companion to our spiritual journey at any age and that the Holy Spirit is present to guide us. Every September we begin again at the beginning with the Story of Creation. You can check signs posted outside the classrooms for the day's story. To see what a Godly Play session looks like, you can check out this YouTube video: "[The Sower](#)" Full Godly Play Session or contact Kim Messenger to schedule a time to visit a class.

ELEMENTARY

After a fun summer session where we talked about the five core values of Reservoir Church and enjoyed some relaxing art and craft stations, we're looking forward to getting back into the regular program! During the school year we divide our time between large group worship and story, small group discussion, and independent or group "work time." This year we'll be starting our year with a two week mini-unit focused on getting to know each other and building community. Then we'll jump into our first full unit, "Knowing God", which will take us on a whirlwind tour from Creation to Moses. As in the preschool group, we give the kids lots of time to ask and answer open-ended questions about the stories, as we figure out together what they mean for us today.

YOUTH GROUP

Over the summer, Reservoir youth celebrated God's creation through a series of field trips and adventures. We ate crepes in Davis Square, swam in pools and lakes, hiked, climbed, and enjoyed being together outside. It was a wonderful time of building community and spending time with friends, both old and new.

This fall, the middle schoolers will choose Old Testament stories and create stop motion animation films to show to the elementary schoolers. The young people will storyboard, design scenery and characters, take photos, and animate their film over the course of the fall. The capstone event will be a movie premier to showcase their work.

The high schoolers will explore different spiritual practices through the lens of leaders' and youths' stories. For example, we will hear a few stories of how prayer plays a role in someone's life and then practice a few different ways to pray. By sharing stories and reflecting on our own experience, we will get to see how we can interact with a living God, both individually and corporately.

CONTACT US

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

One of our core values at Reservoir is **connection** and the gift of living in community. This fall kids and youth will connect with old and new friends in our Sunday morning programs. We're also looking forward to community group meetings and a great family-friendly retreat on Cape Cod in October.



Middle School Youth Group members getting their connection on.

FAMILIES CALENDAR

Sunday, September 3	Return to two services at 9:30 & 11:30 AM. Kids Church is still on break.
Sunday, September 10	Kids Church and Youth Group resume. Kids Church and Middle School group meet at 9:30. High School group meets at 11:30.
Sunday, September 10	Meet & Greet for Youth Team & Youth Families. 11-11:30 AM.
Sunday, September 17	Kids Church Training. 11:15 AM - 1 PM.
Sunday, September 17	Bodaborg Rematch for Middle & High Schoolers, 1:30-7 PM.
Monday, September 18	Registration Deadline for Reservoir Fall Retreat.
Saturday, September 23	Samaritans 5K Race, 10 AM. Tory Tolles and some of the youth will run together.
Saturday, September 23-24	Middle School Overnight at Reservoir.
Sunday, September 24	Kids Church Training. 11:15 AM - 1 PM.
October 20-21	Reservoir Church Fall Retreat.
Sunday, October 29	Child Dedication Class. 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM.
November 10-12	High School Retreat to Martha's Vineyard.
Sunday, November 12	Child Dedication. 9:30 AM in main service.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

Fall is a great time to jump into a community group with other families, or other moms. These groups offer the chance to share one another's lives, including the ups and downs of parenting, and pray for and encouragement one another. Reservoir boasts groups for moms and a few family-friendly groups with different ways of incorporating children or arranging for child-minding while the grown-ups meet. You can check out a full listing on our website at www.reservoirchurch.org/connect/community-groups.

RESERVOIR CHURCH FALL RETREAT

October 20-21 on Cape Cod.
Registration deadline is September 18.

Wendy Birdsong said it well this past Sunday when she shared about her experience of last year's retreat: "We are a community following Jesus together." YES! And our community includes grown-ups and lots of kids and youth. We'll enjoy times when we're all together for meals and worship and a short activity on Saturday morning. We'll also have separate childcare and programs for infants through high schoolers. Because we do this retreat together as a community, Dan Archibald and Kim Messenger will need your help. We're asking folks to sign up for a two hour shift with the kids on Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon. Don't worry, you'll still have plenty of time to tap into the retreat offerings and conversation with other grown-ups. You can contact Kim and Dan directly or indicate your willingness to help out when you register.

Our guest speakers this year are Adey & Tom Wassink, pastors from our partner church in Iowa City. They will help us explore how to make meaning out of the patterns in our lives and find God's invitation for disruption.

Please visit reservoirchurch.org/fall-retreat for answers to more FAQs and to register. You'll find a pay-what-you-can option because we believe in a generous God and we are blessed by a generous community. We really hope you'll join us in October.



Kids on last year's retreat show the ocean is fine in late October!