

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE PANDEMIC

Great ideas from churches in our Presbytery, Part 2

It was great to see so many of you last night! Thanks for joining our Zoom meeting. Although none of us have any magic solutions to the problems of bringing God to our kids in the midst of a global pandemic, I heard some great ideas for keeping the kids engaged until we can meet physically once again. And, I know I really enjoy the support and camaraderie of our group!

I have highlighted some things we discussed (Loreen added a few more things). If you need to contact me or anyone else in the group, just let me know. You can reach me at barbara.dsouza@westminsterchurch.cc We will meet again via Zoom on September 22 at 7:00pm. Loreen will send you the link closer to the date ☺

Thoughts, ideas and brainstorming from our meeting!

1. Youth Sunday. This could be good time to schedule your Youth Sunday as one of your recorded Sundays, or have young people read scripture or lead liturgy.
2. Don't feel alone! Those churches that are holding services reported that they are very small and scaled down. We are all working hard to keep our congregations safe. No one at our meeting is holding regular "on site" Sunday school.
3. Several people mentioned Sparkhouse's fall curriculum. It is adaptable to online Sunday school and can be purchased a few months at a time.
4. A one-time kick-off Sunday school held as an outdoor blanket Sunday school was suggested. Everyone agreed that the curriculum was not as important as gathering the children and letting them know God and their church loves and cares about them.
5. Various ideas of how to hold a socially distanced Bless the Backpacks event were discussed. Children/families can bring school supplies for CWS kits at that time.
6. Ridgefield-Crystal Lake did a one-day parking lot VBS using Living Waters for the World curriculum, which is free. She said it was 1½ hours (perfect length) and was for grades 1-6. They had student's supplies individually bagged up and kept everyone at socially distanced tables. Could be a good fall kick-off/one day event idea!
7. The Illustrated Compassion curriculum was mentioned.
8. Prayer tree or fence. Supply a basket of long ribbons and invite people to come, pray and tie a streamer to the tree or fence.
9. Gather junior high (or senior high) for a mini local mission trip – Oswego kits cleaned the river near their church. Woodstock does roadside cleanup (not sure if young people are involved).

10. Reminder: APCE will be in Chicago this winter! Information at their website. If feasible, this would be a great event to attend. Lots of good information and a much-needed chance to recharge ☺ (And btw, the APCE website has this page for Remote Ministry Resources: <https://apcenet.org/remote-ministry-resources/>)