



April, 2022 Newsletter

The robins are back, the lawn is filled with them each day and the goldfinches are beginning to turn a bright yellow. I see crocuses in the church gardens and daffodils starting to bloom along side the road. In spite of a few cold nights, I think spring is finally arriving, we just need to look around us for all the signs!

April is a busy month with school vacations and Easter. This month I have attached two articles, one about Easter and one with some suggestions for some screen free activities.

Some dates to put on your calendar:

April 3, 2:00–3:30 PM Youth Group at FCCB with Newtown Congregational Church

April 9, 1:00–3:00 PM Drive by Palm pick up – come help or stop by to get one

May 7, noon to 5 Bethel Pride Parade, come march with us in the parade and help out at our booth

May 15 Youth Group to go to the Adventure Park, more details to come

I hope you can join us this Easter season either in church or on line.

Happy Easter!

Peace,

Claudia Anderson (CC)

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What Easter is About

Sarah Anderson

Easter is about a lot of things. First of all, it's about Jesus keeping His promises. He told the disciples He would leave and then come back, and when Peter and John and Mary went to the tomb and saw it was empty, and then saw Jesus alive, they knew Jesus could be trusted. He did what He said He was going to do. So anything Jesus says, we can trust. That He will be with us, that good always wins, that we have nothing to fear. Trust, trust, trust. True, true, true.

Easter also shows how patient Jesus is. He had told everyone what would happen, and when it did, He wasn't mad they didn't believe. He didn't say, "Ugh! Why don't you listen to me?!" No, He met his friends in a garden and then again in a crowded room, and then again on a beach. And while they just tried to make sense of what happened, He smiled and stayed close and cooked them breakfast. He was so patient with them. He is so patient with us.

Finally, Easter reminds us that something good can always come out of something bad. See, Jesus told us life would be hard. That bad things would happen. That things that don't make any

sense would confuse us and make us wonder about God and if He is really as good as we want Him to be. We can count on life being difficult. But Easter is all about something being more true than life just being hard. Easter is about something new and something good happening in something old and something bad.

As parents it can be really easy to get discouraged in a tough season with our kids. It can feel like it can never end and things will never get better. But Easter is the reminder that no season lasts forever and to hang on. The story will get better.

It's like a new flower poking through the dirt after a long and cold winter.

It's like a new baby smiling at his mama and daddy, after a long night of crying and no sleep.

It's like the first day of summer vacation after a long year of getting up early for school.

That's Easter. (Except about a million times better!) The moment something really good arrives after something really hard. When life conquers death!

10 Screen-Free Things to Do With Your Kids Over Spring Break

Leah Jennings

Remember when you were a kid and it was time for spring break? The week was so full of possibilities, and the excitement was incredibly hard to contain! But then you became a parent and that same break from school morphed into something overwhelming that required so much brain power, patience, and logistics from you? Yep, it's that time of the year again, folks. Spring break—or any extended period of time when your kid is out of school and looking to you to make it F.U.N.—is hard on parents. While it's a well-deserved break for your kids and their teachers, it often means more work for you. More often than not, you default to more screen time than usual because you either 1) have absolutely no idea how to keep your kids entertained or 2) you still have your own work to do. If you're looking for screen-free ways to have a fun spring break this year, here are ten suggestions to start you thinking:

- **Go shopping for a brand-new toy or game.** Just like you, your kid can always find something at Target. Head to the store and buy something—size doesn't matter—they'll enjoy playing with during their week off.
- **Take a day trip.** A weeklong vacation may not be in the budget right now, but day trips can be a fun, more affordable option to experience something new. Plus, it doesn't require much packing.
- **Become a tourist in your own city.** There's likely something you've always been meaning to do in your city, only you haven't made the time. Well, the time is now! Your city is likely filled with tourist attractions—pick one and explore it.
- **Learn something new together.** Do you know how to knit? What about ceramics? Have you ever tried that? Your kid hasn't either! Use this time off to learn something new together with the help of a local class or YouTube.
- **Themed day.** Themes have the power to transform the ordinary into interesting. Choose a theme and stick to it—pajama day, fancy dinner night, and game nights can be a big hit.
- **Kid swap.** There's likely a parent friend who's feeling exactly as you are about spring break. Team up with them to trade off kids for an afternoon or day—it'll give you a much-needed break and your kids some variety.
- **Sleepovers.** Never underestimate the power of a good, old-fashioned sleepover—they're still very much a preferred entertainment option among kids.

- **Spend time in nature.** Your kids have likely been spending so much time indoors, so heading outside for some fresh air will be a welcomed change. Plan a hike, a picnic, or send them out with some sidewalk chalk—nothing is too small.
- **Let your kids figure it out.** There's an unspoken rule parents live by that it's our job to keep our kids entertained 24/7. Nothing can be further from the truth—when kids are left to figure things out on their own, their creativity spikes. So, factor in some unplanned time for your kids and see what they come up with.
- **Create a family photo album.** Head to the store and purchase a Polaroid or Fujifilm Instax camera and encourage your kids to take pictures throughout the week. Get together at the end of the week and see what spring break looked like through their eyes.

