

April 16 from 6-9 pm

Brainstorming for May and June Worship series:

Through the
Eyes of a Child



Pastor Mary and Ivan Ivanov's house
6:00 pm Potluck Dinner
7:00-9:00 pm Brainstorming for Worship

Join us at 6:00 pm for dinner. Please bring a side dish to pass. The main dish is a surprise! RSVP's are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or lakeharbor@aol.com) or Karen Booth. Carpooling is encouraged, but not critical. Please read the scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

Directions from church: Take Henry St. to Norton (1.6 miles). Turn left (west) on Seminole (north). Go 0.8 miles. Turn right (north) on Rood Road, right on Crandall and quick left onto Norlock. The road will turn into Clayton. Ivanovs are on the left (north) side of the street.

Advertisers understand it. They use kids to sell their stuff all the time. Why? Besides being cute, kids look at the world differently than adults. They find hope, joy, peace, and love in the littlest things. How delightful! Growing old is not synonymous with becoming jaded and grumpy. How can we adults reclaim God's good plan by looking through the eyes of a child? What can children teach us about living our faith? How can we be in ministry with children – not in ministry to them?

Guiding scripture: Mark 10: 13-16 (TNIV)

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This Scripture challenges us to consider the vulnerability and dependence of children in Jesus' day - not simply childlike faith. What's the difference between childish and childlike?

Visuals: Images of children – all ages.

Ideas and resources:

- What do children teach us? Could we take short videos?
- Seeing the world through a kid's point of view - could we attach a "GoPro" camera to a small kid to see what they see?

- What questions do kids ask that everyone has? *What is heaven like? What do kids say that we need to hear? Come and play with me! This is fun! I love you. Let's take a nap. I want to be just like you.*
- Use book [My Little Golden Book about God](#)
- Use videos from UM Communications/Rethink Church: <http://www.umcom.org/rethink-church/2017-advertising-campaign-videos>
- Sing songs that we learn early on each week - maybe even some camp songs like *Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves the Little Children, This Little Light of Mine, Father Abraham, Awesome God, Fruit of the Spirit, Pharaoh, Pharaoh, Give Me Oil in My Lamp*
- Fred Rogers' testimony before Congress in 1969 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKy7lJr0AA>
- Theory of faith development - James Fowler: <http://www.psychologycharts.com/james-fowler-stages-of-faith.html>
- Music thread for the series: "I Wanna Go Back" by David Dunn (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUvxhGRUR3s>)

Media possibility: "Childlike Faith." Length: 1:51. Cost: \$15.00. This touching mini-movie reflects on the words of Jesus in Mark 10:15 about all us of needed childlike faith. It leads us to ask ourselves: what does this look like in my life? And to remember that without Him we can do nothing! This mindset is the essence of childlike faith, to rely on God for all our needs!
<https://www.sermonspice.com/product/64755/child-like-faith>

May 6, 2018 at 10 a.m.: "Generosity: Always Enough" or "The Super-Duper Picnic"
 Children's Sunday with special guest, Glenys Nellist

Scripture: John 6: 1-14 (The Message)

¹After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias).

²A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. ³When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. ⁴It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

⁵When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" ⁶He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."

⁸One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, ⁹"There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

¹²When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." ¹³They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!"

Synopsis: Jesus' disciples were dumbfounded when Jesus told them that the vast crowd that had gathered to hear him speak also needed to be fed. A young boy was willing to share little he had.

Why did they have such a hard time believing that God would provide?

Felt need: To give generously, trusting God's promise to provide

Visuals: Video and images of Lake Harbor children

Hands-on item: Goldfish cracker

Activity: Holy Communion - kids serving with adults, Bibles given to 3rd graders, Recognition of Christian Education leaders, Dedication of "Grace Space" for young children

Media possibilities:

- "A Boy with No Lunch." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWXkX9axcWs> shows a different take on generosity and sharing - and shows how kids take the lead.
- Here's an explanation of the purpose of the video: https://www.buzzfeed.com/kassycho/people-are-so-touched-by-this-video-about-a-boy-who-cant?utm_term=.ld4lq9j9K#.awWjGnen5
- PowerPoint created by Education Team with pictures from this year in Christian Education, including nursery, Youth Group, etc.

Music possibilities: Let Us Break Bread Together (UMH 618)

May 13, 2018: "Trust: Given and Kept"

Mothers' Day

Scripture: Isaiah 43: 1-2 (TNIV)

¹But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Scripture: Proverbs 3: 5-6 (TNIV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight

Scripture: Psalm 131

Scripture: Isaiah 66: 12-13 (TNIV)

¹² For this is what the LORD says:

"I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and **dandled*** on her knees. ¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

*FYI: Dandle means to move (a baby or young child) up and down in a playful or affectionate way.

Synopsis: Kids trust parents to catch them when they jump and comfort them when they are sad. A child's trust is a sacred gift given to parents and caregivers that can reflect their trust in God. We know both the pain of broken trust and the importance of trust that is kept.

Felt need: Trust God whose love never fails and whose comfort is always available

Visuals:

Hands-on item: Give a chocolate "treasure" to all women in the congregation, use Mother's Day prayer to acknowledge all experiences of mothering.

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- “Here’s to the Mothers.” Length: 3:47. Cost: Free with membership. A salute to the “ordinary glory” of motherhood. Celebrate the kingdom work that moms demonstrate daily in the seemingly mundane, everyday tasks that keep a family going. Perfect for Mother’s Day. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/heres-to-the-mothers/>
 - “Learning to Trust God.” Length: 4: 41 (maybe start at the 2:00 mark). Cost: Free. In this episode of Kid Vid Cinema, meet Cole and his family on their ranch. Cole shares how he learned to trust God when his dad was sick. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTLhErbNJps>
- Music possibilities:* #143 “On Eagle’s Wings”; #2030 “The First Song of Isaiah” (Isa. 12:2-6); You Are Mine (FWS 2218); For the Beauty of the Earth (UMH 92)

May 20, 2018: “Joy: Be Full of It”

Pentecost, Graduation Sunday

Scripture: Genesis 1:31a

³¹ And God saw that everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Scripture: Romans 15:13 (Today’s New International Version)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Psalm 100

Scripture: Zechariah 8:5

⁵ And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:4

⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Synopsis: God created us and all of creation and said, “It was very good.” God took delight in creation, and God calls us to be creative. How can we reconnect with the joy of our childhood, including finding time to play, and quit taking ourselves too seriously?

Felt need: To reclaim childlike joy and take time to create and play - and grow

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Recognition of Graduates, Reception of New Members

Media possibilities:

- “Joy Ride.” Length: 1:52. Cost: Free with membership. As adults, it’s very easy to take ourselves too seriously. “Joy Ride” connects us with the joy of our youth. We are reminded that God gives us the chance for joy every day, we just have to engage it. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/joy-ride/>
- “Invite 4.” Length: 2:16. Cost: \$20.00. What can we learn from children? Inviting your neighbors to church through the eyes of child. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/39587/invite-4>

Music: #145 “Morning Has Broken”; #585 “This Little Light of Mine”

May 27, 2018 at 10:00 am: “Honesty: When We Wonder”

Trinity Sunday

Scripture: James 3: 17 (TNIV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Scripture: Matthew 5: 8 (TNIV)

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52 (The Message)

⁴¹Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover.

⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. ⁴³When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. ⁴⁵When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

⁴⁶The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. ⁴⁸But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

⁴⁹He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" ⁵⁰But they had no idea what he was talking about.

⁵¹So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. ⁵²And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

Synopsis: Kids have a knack for explaining things simply, offering honest questions, taking time to wonder, and speaking some surprising truths. What can we learn about how we approach God?

Felt need: To come to God with questions, wonderings, and doubts

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Consecration of Memorial Gifts, tour of Memorial Garden?

Media possibilities:

- "Heaven: It's Not Complicated." Length: 4:30. Cost: \$15.00. We asked a group of children at a daycare: What does heaven look like? Who gets into heaven? Who is Jesus? Their answers will make you laugh and surprise you. <https://www.sermonspice.com/product/57095/heaven-its-not-complicated>
- "Kids Talk Honest 1." Length: 0:59. Cost: \$8.00. JellyTelly presents Kids Talk. In this segment a little boy explains why it is important to tell the truth. www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/13868/kids-talk-honesty-1

Message illustrations:

- A Stone for a Pillow: Journeys with Jacob by Madeleine L'Engle, page 178: "A teacher of small children told us of a child who said to her, "Jesus is God's show and tell."
- Art Linkletter: The two best interview subjects are children under 10 and people over 70 for the same reason: they say the first thing that comes to their mind. The children don't know what they're saying and the old folks don't care.
- Use book Children's Letters to God
- Ron Zuker's riddle about God that kids can answer correctly, but adults can't

June 3, 2018: "Love: Let's Be Friends"

Annual Conference - Pastor Mary will be gone. Jimmy Epplert will offer the message.

Scripture: John 15: 12-15 (NIV - part of May 6 lectionary)

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called your friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10 (NIV)

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Scripture: Proverbs 17:17 (TNIV)

¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Synopsis: Children tend to accept others at face value, make friends quickly, and have little sense of boundaries or judgment. They reflect God's intention for love and friendship.

Felt need: To develop deep relationships as an expression of God's love for us

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- Scenes from "Toy Story"

Quote: Art Linkletter: The only meaningful contact is one that involves a genuine, giving personal interaction. You may want another person to help you in business, but you must also be willing to help him and to spend time getting to know his interests and needs... It has to be real and heartfelt, or it's best not to try to establish the relationship at all.

Music: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (UMH 526), Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (FWS 2171), "How He Loves" by John Mark McMillan ; Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me"; Girl Scout song – "Make new friends..."

June 10, 2018: "Rest: It's Holy"

Scripture: Exodus 20: 1-17 (includes Sabbath commandment, which is key to loving God well and loving neighbor well)

¹God said to the people of Israel:

²I am the Lord your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.

³Do not worship any god except me.

⁴ Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. ⁵ Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. ⁶But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

⁷ Do not misuse my name. I am the Lord your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

⁸ Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. ⁹ You have six days when you can do your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. ¹¹ In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

¹² Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

¹³ Do not murder.

¹⁴ Be faithful in marriage.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not tell lies about others.

¹⁷ Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.

Scripture: Mark 6:31 (TNIV)

³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Scripture: Psalm 127:2 (TNIV)

² In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for he grant sleep to those he loves.

Scripture: Psalm 4:8 (TNIV)

⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Synopsis: Children need plenty of rest. Sometimes they rest willingly, and other times not so willingly.

As we get older we may not take naps, but we never outgrow the need for adequate rest. What are we missing when we "go, go, go?" What is God's plan for resting our bodies, renewing our spirits, and remembering who we are?

Felt need: To honor the Sabbath, keep it holy, and know that it's tied to our ability to live and love well

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibility: "Restore: Rest." Length: 1:43. Cost: Free with membership. Many of us don't make relaxation a priority, and when we do have time for it, we often don't know how to relax. Does our relentless work say something about a lack of trust in God?

<https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/restore-rest/>

Music: "Come and Rest" chorus from Lent

June 17, 2018: "Like Father, Like Son"

Father's Day

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6 (TNIV)

⁶Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Scripture: Proverbs 19:18 (MSG)

¹⁸Discipline your children while you still have the chance; indulging them destroys them.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-4 (TNIV)

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – ³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:19 (TNIV)

¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6: 1-7

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25 - story of Joseph (earthly father of Jesus)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2015/06/joseph-the-father-of-a-messiah/>

Synopsis: Sometimes parents think that they don't have as much influence over their children as their peers, social media, etc. That's not true or biblical. Children want and need parents who provide safety, security, and appropriate limits. While moms and dads may not be perfect parents, they can trust God to help show them the way.

Felt need: To grow in Godly "parenting"

Visuals:

Hands-on item: Give a chocolate "treasure" to all men in the congregation, use Father's Day prayer to acknowledge all experiences of fathering

Activity/drama: Use the Bible Gateway blog as drama with Joseph and an interviewer.

Media possibilities:

- "Teaching Moment." Length: 2:45. Cost: Free with our subscription. It is easy to think that being a father comes down to the big moment, but it's the everyday choices we make that define fatherhood. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/teaching-moment/>
- "Daddy." Length: 2:28. Cost: Free with our subscription. Some of the most cherished memories father can leave for our children are the simplest: when we focus on nothing but them. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/daddy/>
- "In Her Steps." Length: 1:41. Cost: Free with our subscription. Mother's Day takes on a deeper meaning as we get older. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/in-her-steps/>
- Dad commercial from Cheerios <http://heartstonejourney.com/8-tips-on-how-to-dad-from-a-cheerios-commercial/>
- "Parenting Is Hard." Length: 1:17. Cost: Free with membership. There's nothing like becoming a parent to give you perspective and appreciation for all of your parent's sacrifices through the year. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/parenting-is-hard/>
- "You Got This." Length: 2:01. Cost: Free with membership. Remind dads that their influence lasts far beyond the most intensive years of hands-on parenting. Because of the way that our fathers believed in us and guided us, we have the confidence we need to navigate through life. <https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/you-got-this/>

Message illustration: Heard on WJQ during Lent 2018: Listeners were invited to share their stories of what they have given up for Lent that had "stuck," i.e. the acts that had the most impact. A young mom called in recalling how she had always given up smoking while pregnant, but always found herself smoking shortly after her children were born. One day, her five-year-old son said he wanted to grow up to be a smoker. That was the last day she smoked.

Music: Faith of Our Fathers (UMH 710); Good, Good Father (Chris Tomlin)

June 24, 2018: "Long Enough?"

Scripture: Psalm 90:12 (Contemporary English Version)

¹²Teach us to use wisely all the time we have.

Scripture: Psalm 90:12 (New Living Translation)

¹²Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Scripture: II Corinthians 4:16-5:1 (Contemporary English Version) - June 10 lectionary

¹⁶We never give up. Our bodies are gradually dying, but we ourselves are being made stronger each day.

¹⁷These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing. ¹⁸Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

^{5:1} Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever.

Repeat guiding scripture: Mark 10: 13-16 (TNIV)

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Synopsis: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." Vicki Corona said that in 1989 when she was writing about dancing and people often quote her when they talk about living life to the fullest, but that sounds pretty trite when we're grieving. What can young (and not so young) children teach us about God's desire for using every day we've been given to find meaning and purpose - and leave a legacy?

Felt need: To live in the moment, trusting that our problems are temporary

Visuals: Butterfly - a symbol of epidermolysis bullosa, the disease Gabe Valentine was born with (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidermolysis_bullosa)

Hands-on item: Butterfly or band-aid

Activity: Missions Team Strawberry Festival

Media possibilities: Video of Gabe Valentine talking about heaven

Message illustration: Portions Mike Valentine's FaceBook post about Gabe

Music: #707 "Hymn of Promise"