

APCE

Summer Ideas for Kids Roundtable

May 3rd 12pm Eastern Time

Traditional VBS:

[Concordia Supply options](#)

[Cokesbury options](#)

[Christianbook.com options](#)

[Who is My Neighbor?](#) - published by MennoMedia

[Who is My Neighbor?](#) - published by ELCA (free download)

Doing an Ecumenical VBS with 4 churches. Using some of the ELCA/ plus adding our own pieces.

Doing it in the evenings instead of day to get more volunteers, 4 nights of program and the fifth night as family meal

3 evening VBS on the church lawn, special fire truck visit, more of a community event and community focused

Large room- "Discovery" room with stations for the children to explore and have 30 minutes of fellowship time

Limiting max numbers to manage COVID risk, alternative ways to rotate activities instead of kids

Ideas shared through the APCE facebook group

[Alternative Ideas to VBS](#)

[Around the Table: Design a Summer Series on the Faith Practices](#)

Options from PCUSA resources

[Won't You Be My Neighbor?](#) Free download

[Season of Peace](#) Intergenerational Resources - Presbyterian Mission Agency

Intergenerational event resources

<https://www.genonministries.org/>

<https://messychurchusa.org/>

[Journey Together](#) (12 Intergeren Events) - published by Sparkhouse

[GIFT events](#) by First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, OK

[Through the Lens](#), Focusing on Matthew 25 book by Anna Liechty and Phyllis Wezeman

Family carnival day with simple yard games (corn hole, ladder ball, fishing game with magnets and paper fish with paperclips, Goliath ball toss, bucket toss, lollipop ring toss, etc.)

Combine with popcorn, cotton candy, food trucks, etc.

Family retreat to a regional camp or conference center or children's museum

Playdates at different parks in the community with freeze pops for a treat

Outdoor series in a local park with lessons on the parable of the sower. Partner with a community garden project to volunteer as a group or tour a local community supported agriculture project. Here is one created by Mindy Watts-Ellis in 2021 that had a virtual and in-person option [Sowing Spiritual Seeds](#)

Bike club meeting at a riverside trail each Thursday in the summer- mostly attended by grades 5-8 and the youth leaders even though open to all ages

Wheel Day- church parking lot empty for parents and kids to bring their “wheels” (skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, bicycles, unicycles, scooters, etc.)

Grand Prix Day- remote cars around course made on the church parking lot

Water Day- various water activities for families to do together

Parade participation, enter a float, be sure to have water in coolers to keep participants hydrated

One special thing a month- visit to a pottery shop, pool party,

Zoom breakfast-delivered simple food like a doughnut or muffin and have breakfast with the pastor over Zoom

Zoom bedtime story on Sunday evenings about 15 minutes long for “littles” and their families

Create an experience based on your church’s local or global mission partners.

APCE 2019 workshop about [Mission Factory: God’s work. Our Hands](#) by First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, IL

Here is an example made by Mindy Watts-Ellis in 2020 for First Presbyterian Church Champaign, IL called [Destination Disciples](#) to highlight countries of global mission partners of the church. Might be able to time a mission co-worker visit to coincide with your event

[Animal Crackers](#) – based on Heifer International – Justice oriented

Matthew 25 one-day (or week-long or multi-day) event with [this curriculum](#).

Social justice day at the church with service projects and activities for youth, simple yet powerful

Paper goods not covered by food cards collected and bagged for the local population in need

Make cards for ill and homebound folks and mail them

“Out of the box” Ideas

Matching up young kids with Seniors at Senior living homes

Half day program hosted at a local assisted living home providing activities for kids and seniors to do together. Play Bingo together, do a craft, sing songs, etc. Can connect with an activity director at the assisted living home for ideas and collaboration.

Hybrid VBS - website for homebound kids to do similar activities with parents at home

Book club for 3-5th graders - give them a book to read and then meet 1 Sunday for fellowship and discussion on a Sunday afternoon