

Messy Church Report 1/30

OCTOBER: Our October Messy Church was the most successful since pre-pandemic. 38 participants, 13 of whom were kids! We had people find us on Eventbrite and attend and some who found us through our Facebook page. Thank you all so much for helping out! October was a bit more volunteer intensive than usual, but we made it work!

NOVEMBER: Together we created 25 scarves to keep our friends experiencing homelessness warm this winter! (A few doll and pet scarves were made from the scraps too.) Rev Ry's message about faith in action and our simple "soup kitchen" meal really brought caring for others into focus as we headed into the season of Thanksgiving. Thank you to Debbie Bonnewell and Karen Kowalski for providing the meal. And what a blessing to be able to gather inside again! It was a smaller group of only 17 participants, but we picked up a family with young children who I think we will see again.

DECEMBER: Technically, Living Nativity was Messy Church for the month. By all accounts it was fantastic. We had a good turn out. Ryan was able to connect with many visitors. It was a comfortable, low-key version of the extravaganza we have done in the past and felt much more authentic to who we are as a congregation. Next year we will need a volunteer organizer. Too much of that task fell to Church Administrator Lisa King.

JANUARY: Cancelled due to rising COVID levels.

FEBRUARY: February 13 - THEME: Frozen II movie night with a little love thrown in for Valentine's Day

We will have Celebration right off the bat, at 4:45, so we can get to the movie and get littles to bed at a decent hour. The schedule will be Celebration, guests get dinner and bring to the Messy Church room to eat along with the movie. During the movie there will be a couple of activities for those that want to roam or take a break if it gets scary and there will be popcorn for bigs and Pirates Booty or similar for littles. We are in need of somebody to organize/execute the meal. Also, if anybody has a DVD of Frozen II, let us know.

MARCH: March 13 - THEME: Justice for All

This one will be our regular format: Activities - Celebration - Meal which will be the return of the Chili Cookoff! It will have been 2 full years since the last one, which as you know was our last event before COVID shut us down later that week. It was also one of our best Messy Churches. Food should also be easy because everybody who wants to participate brings a crock pot of chili and we just supply cornbread, fixins, dessert, drinks and chicken nuggets/applesauce/broccoli for the kiddos. We need somebody to organize/execute the meal.

April 10 - THEME: Easter Egg Hunt with refreshments on the porch. Time to be determined.

Possible Random Activities:

Messy Meet-Up Hockey Night with Norfolk Admirals

Intergenerational Pen Pals Letter Exchange

A BIG thank you to Faye Joseph who has taken on organizing volunteers for our meals! This has been a wonderful help and greatly appreciated.

Last but not least, our Messy Church received a grant for \$1,000 from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation! This would not have happened if Gary Bonnewell hadn't suggested it, Lisa King hadn't written and submitted our application and Gary hadn't then walked our application through the process. We need to think about how best to use these funds.

Respectfully submitted, 1/28/22

Melanie Cramer, Messy Church Coordinator