



## Children's Events

### C.R.O.S.S. KIDS WINTER/SPRING EVENTS FOR APRIL

**Sunday, April 12 and 19 from 4:30-6:30pm**

We will continue to gather together in April for our "67...God Did It First!" semester! We cannot wait to see what this month unfolds for us! Did you know these numbers have incredible meaning in the Bible? This semester, your child will discover how God uses the number 6 to represent our incomplete, imperfect lives—and the number 7 to show His perfect completion! We'll explore how God takes our "6" moments and transforms them into "7" perfection. Spoiler alert: **God did 6-7 first!**

April 12- Mission Night

April 19-Small Groups

#### Children's Leaders

David and Hellen Bee

Daniel Everhart

Evva Kate Hanes-Fordham

Holli Rhoney

Jason Romblad

Josh and Melissa Webb

Lolly Wiles

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am in various classrooms on the lower level**

We invite you to join us for Sunday School each Sunday morning as children split up into more age specific small groups and dive deeper into our monthly verse and themes. They have loving Sunday School teachers with awesome plans ready to go for them to help each child learn more about what plans God has for each of their lives. Our Little Explorers (2 and 3 year olds) are continuing to learn from the Little Bible Heroes and will be learning about Jesus' Miracles and The Good Samaritan. The rest of our classes will continue our work in GROW with "Clue".



This series kicks off with the greatest news ever—Jesus is alive! But even his closest friends were surprised by what they discovered. Each week, kids will follow the clues in the Bible, looking at the stories leading up to Easter and connecting them to other moments in Jesus' life and ministry. Along the way, they'll see that the Bible isn't just full of clues about who Jesus is—it's the complete story of God's love. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that **the Bible says Jesus is alive, the Bible tells us Jesus loves us, the Bible reveals who Jesus is, and the Bible shows us how to share God's love.**

#### **BIG IDEAS & BIBLE STORIES**

1. **The Bible says Jesus is alive!** (Jesus Died and Rose Again: Matthew 27:45–28:10; Isaiah 25:6–9)
2. **The Bible tells us Jesus loves us.** (Jesus Appears to the Disciples: John 20:19–31; Mark 14:12–26)
3. **The Bible reveals who Jesus is.** (Jesus on the Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13–35; Mark 9:2–13)
4. **The Bible shows us how to share God's love.** (Jesus at the Sea of Galilee: John 10:1–11, 21:1–17)

It's a great time to gather together in a smaller group on Sunday mornings!

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, April 12, 19 and 26 during the 11:00am service**

There are two worship opportunities for children during our 11:00am service. If there is a Children's Chat, all children will leave after that. If not, there will be a specific time where children will leave. Children age 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will go to Children's Church and children grades 3-5 will go to Kid's Worship. There will not be Children's Church or Kids Worship on Sunday, April 5 as it is Easter Sunday and it will be an altered service.



## **HOLY WEEK**

**Sunday, March 29-Friday, April 3 beginning at 7:00pm each night**



Holy Week

Each night families and friends will gather as we sing and read about the last week of Jesus' life here on Earth. There will be a CE Member, Trustee and Elder who will lead the children in special activities each night. They will meet in the Discovery Classroom across from the Kitchen. It will be a wonderful week to learn about Jesus and His great sacrifice for each one of us!

## **EASTER PROGRAM**

**Saturday, April 4 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon**

Grab the kids, find the Easter baskets and join us for an awesome Easter event! Children from toddlers to elementary age (2 years – 5th grade) will enjoy a morning full of activities that will help them see the true meaning of Easter! This is a perfect event to invite your neighbors and friends to celebrate alongside of your family! The program will be rain or shine and will begin in the Family Life Center.



## **LAUREL RIDGE CAMP OPPORTUNITIES**

The different summer camp opportunities for your child(ren) are below! There is a separate code for Pre-Junior and Junior camp this year so make sure to pay close attention to that below! Also, don't forget to get signed up for the Pre-K Event and Spring Family Camp! It's a great time to gather together with your family on the mountain with other friends as well! Register at [www.laurelridge.org](http://www.laurelridge.org)



Laurel Ridge Camp Opportunities for 2026

**Laurel Ridge Pre-K Event-Saturday, May 23 from 10:00am-5:00pm-Registration is open**

**Laurel Ridge Spring Family Camp-Friday, May 29-31-Registration is open**

**Pre-Junior for children who just finished 1st-2nd Grade-July 24-26 Early Registration opens January 1-code for Friedberg is 2026friedbergpj**

**Junior Camp for children who just finished 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade-July 26-August 1 Early Registration opens January 1-code for Friedberg is 2026friedberg**



### **April's verse to focus on will be:**

**"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

Take some time this month to think about and use this Family Devotion!

#### **Love That Didn't Wait**

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
Romans 5:8 (NIV)

**The Big Idea**-Most love has conditions — we love people who are nice to us, who deserve it, or who love us back. But God's love is completely different. He didn't wait until we were good enough. He loved us and sent Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners — before we ever turned toward Him.

**Object Lesson** (you'll need a piece of paper)-Take a piece of paper and crumple it up as tightly as you can. Pass it around so everyone can crumple it a little more. Now try to smooth it back out flat.

Ask your kids: "Can we make it perfect again? Are there still wrinkles?"

Say: "This paper is like us. When we sin — when we lie, when we're selfish, when we do things that hurt others or dishonor God — it's like crumpling up. We can try to smooth things out on our own, but we can't make it perfect. That's exactly when God stepped in. Not when we were all smoothed out and good — but right in the middle of all our wrinkles. That is what makes His love so incredible."

## Talk About It

For little ones (Ages 4–6)

Have you ever done something wrong and then felt scared to tell Mom or Dad? Did they still love you? God loves us even more than that — and He never stops!

For little ones (Ages 4–6)

If you knew your friend was going to be mean to you tomorrow, would you still give them a gift today? Why or why not? God did something like that for us!

For older kids (Ages 7–12)

The verse says "while we were still sinners." What do you think would be different about God's love if it said "after we cleaned up our act"? Why does the timing matter?

For older kids (Ages 7–12)

God's love isn't based on what we deserve. Can you think of a time when someone loved you or was kind to you when you didn't really deserve it? How did that feel? How might knowing God loves us that way change how we treat others?

For the whole family

The word "demonstrates" means to prove something or show it in action. What does it tell us about God that He didn't just say "I love you" — He actually did something to prove it?

## Live It Out This Week

Challenge each family member to show love to someone before that person does anything to earn it — a kind note to a sibling without a reason, helping with a chore without being asked, or saying something encouraging to someone at school. At the end of the week, come back together and share what happened. That's a tiny glimpse of the kind of love God showed us in Jesus.

## Memory Verse Challenge

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8b (NIV)

Say it together three times — once slowly, once whispering, once with feeling!

## Close in Prayer

Father, thank You that Your love didn't wait for us to be perfect. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us even when we were far from You. Help us to really feel how wide and deep and real that love is — and help us share it with others this week. We love You. Amen.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHILDREN OF FRIEDBERG...

## "Walking With Jesus...A Day In the Life!"



In March, a group of us went to Laurel Ridge for our Weekend Away! We had a wonderful time together while on the mountain! Our children and adults who went reflected on one of two-if not both questions they were asked.



1. What was your favorite part of the weekend that helped you get closer to God?
2. What are you going to begin to add into your daily life and

routines that helps you live more like Jesus?

Scan the QR code to watch a video with our reflections and as you watch it, see where or what you might could do to live more like Jesus daily! Enjoy!!

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"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." 3 John 1:4

