



# SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

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## "TO THE PARENTS OF SMALL CHILDREN"

Welcome to the services of the Summerdale church of Christ! We are so happy you are here! During services this morning you may notice that your children have a tendency to be hyper. What should you do about it? Relax. God put the wiggle and children, so don't feel like you have to suppress it! We welcome you and we welcome them. Everyone is welcome in our church family!

We would like to encourage you to think like a child. Choose to sit toward the front of the assembly, where your children can have a better view. It's hard to see the song leader, PowerPoint, Scripture reader, communion table, and preacher during the service if you have to look through a large crowd. They may be tired of looking at the back of other people's heads.

We would like to encourage you to train your child. Teach them about worship. Feel free to take moments throughout the service to explain to your child what we are doing and why we are doing it. Be prepared for them to ask questions in return and feel free to answer them to the best of your ability.

We would like to encourage you to engage in heartfelt worship. Your child will mimic you. Therefore, feel free to sing loudly, voice an "Amen" when appropriate, and bow your head for prayer. When we return to the auditorium, we encourage you to give them a songbook. Give them a children's bulletin or sermon notes. Let them follow along with the lesson.

If you have to leave early with your child, please feel free to do so, but come back! Your child is not a distraction! Your child is a blessing! Remember that children are always welcome at the Summerdale church of Christ! Feel free to let them use this bulletin to draw, sketch, or doodle. The church family loves to see their handiwork!

## "TO THE REST OF US"

There are three things I love to hear during worship: 1) the sound of pages turning in the Bible, 2) the sound of an AMEN echoing through the crowd, 3) the sound of children in worship. Praise the Lord that we have children with us in worship!

The presence of a child reflects the presence of young family. The presence of young family is the sign of a growing church. A growing church pleases God! Please welcome the children around you with a smile and encourage their parents.

Please do not become frustrated by noisy children in services. Remember that absolute silence does not mean absolute reverence. God will not punish us all if we make a little noise during worship services. Remember that you were once a noisy child. Children squirm. Children wiggle. Children cry. Children talk loudly. That's natural. You did it.

When parents brought their children to Jesus, the disciples rebuked them (Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:14-15, Luke 18:15-17), but what did Jesus do in turn to them? He rebuked His disciples! He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Please be patient and understanding. May God bless us all as we worship the Lord together this morning.

*You are loved,  
Ray*





*After carefully weighing the COVID-19 safety concerns, we must announce that we have decided not to send our children or any staff to GCBC this year on the church van.*

*However, we will not discourage parents from sending their own kids to GCBC or other summer camps. We believe that each family should weigh the risks and make that decision. Thank you so much.*

## YOUTH NEWS

**JUNIOR WEEK  
JULY 5-8**

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL WEEK  
JULY 26-31**



[www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com](http://www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com)



*The "Sunshine Studies" online series has moved to 9 AM on Sunday mornings. These studies revolve around the Sermon on the Mount and are directed towards our pre-K to 5th grade. However, it is fun for the whole family! We will continue this series of Bible lessons until Sunday morning Bible classes resume at the building at 9 AM in the near future. Please watch the bulletin and our social media pages for that update.*

*We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea.*

*Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions.*

*We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube.*

*So far we have interviewed Brady Long, Sebastian Hall, Carter Long, Zane Rider, and Caryn Coxwell. Who will be next? Hayden Joiner! Follow us and watch on YouTube.*



*We have postponed the Awards Presentation due to COVID-19 and summer vacation. In the coming weeks we will announce a date to honor our L2L kids. Also, Junior Leaders has been put on temporary hold. We are tentatively planning to attend an L2L convention in New Orleans on August 8. Thank you to all who help L2L!*

*TITUS Camp begins tonight (July 12-15) in an online virtual format. There will be more than 60 teachers helping students develop leadership and communication skills. It will be absolutely FREE! Everyone is welcome! Parents, teachers, students, elders, etc. are encouraged to watch LIVE! Go to [www.hcu.edu](http://www.hcu.edu) or follow @TITUSCamp on social media.*



*We are excited to announce that we will be having a Youth & Young Family Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN for our church family. The plans are to leave the church building on Friday, July 24 around 6 PM. We will drive to Gadsden, AL and stay the first night in a hotel. Saturday through Wednesday morning we will stay at a cabin. Our activities will include devotionals, Bible studies, singing, a video scavenger hunt, lots of games, a trip to Dollywood, hiking, and shopping in Pigeon Forge. We will leave the Smoky Mountains on Wednesday morning to head home. This will be a great experience for the whole family! Space will be limited to around 32 people. Please see me if you have any questions.*

### TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR:

July 12-15 - TITUS Camp (online)

July 24-29 - Family Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN

August 8 - L2L Convention in New Orleans, LA

FAMILY GAME NIGHT - TBA



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