

Ideas for Summer Family Ministry: Take-Home Activities

Not every church has the ability to run a Vacation Bible School during Summer Break, but that doesn't mean there aren't other fantastic opportunities for ministry with families in your community. Check-out some of these great ideas from different United churches for inspiration.

During the height of the pandemic many of our churches created take-home Sunday School or VBS care packages for families to explore. St. John's United Church in Marathon ON called theirs "Camp-in-a-Box", it included a family devotional, a summer playlist, and suggested activities and supplies to get kids playing outside. Dunsford United ON had "Compassion in a Box", which came in a re-usable "fruits of the spirit" grocery bag. At Grace United, Peterborough, "Take Out Church" pizza boxes were hand delivered to homes.

Common items to include are:

- A devotional (check-out products from [Illustrated Ministry](#), [Salt Project](#), and [Jesus, Glue & Glitter](#))
- A notebook
- Colouring books or pages with markers, crayons or coloured pencils
- A craft and necessary supplies (not everyone will have glue or scissors at home)
- Snacks: microwave popcorn, a box of baking mix (cake, cookies, brownies), s'mores kit
- Outdoor activities: bubbles, balls, skipping rope, scavenger hunt list

Even if you don't have enough resources to run an in-person family ministry event, sending families home with a take-home activity tells them that you're thinking of them and you want to support their spiritual growth! A letter to parents offering encouragement, or a follow-up pastoral care phone call during the summer could also go a long way to strengthening your relationship with these community members.

Share your favourite ideas from your community of faith with your Growth Animator (jcantwell@united-church.ca). Your gifts of growing might be seeds of inspiration for others!