



What's Available for Families at CELC?

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6: 5-9)

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 contains God's instructions on how to relate faith to young people. Parents (or guardians) are the most powerful influences on their children's spiritual growth, and God gives them the important responsibility and blessing of being their children's primary faith teachers and mentors. Developing disciples of Jesus Christ is our goal 24-7, which means it must be done *in the home* and not just in church. With that in mind, we seek to work with and equip parents to disciple their children.

Discipleship Opportunities for Your Family:

SPLASH! BABY is CELC's ministry to babies. Available during both worship services, Splash! Baby provides babies (and young children) a safe and fun place to play, worship and learn Bible stories through a variety of age-appropriate DVDs and other resources. Parents of babies and toddlers also receive monthly Splash! faith formation resources filled with ideas for faith-filled play, worship, meals and prayer. A strict check-in/check-out system is in place to ensure the safety and security of the children.

PATHFINDERS SUNDAY MORNING ADVENTURE is CELC's Sunday school ministry for children ages 3-11. Each week, children learn a Bible story and focus on one key lesson that they can apply to their lives. Parents receive take-home activities designed to reinforce the lesson and help them lead faith conversations with their families throughout the week. (We encourage teens to attend the Alpha course or a Sunday school class with their parents and to attend Youth Group to connect with other teens.)

Building stronger families in Christ Jesus...

- Reaching out with the love of Jesus (evangelism)
- Connecting with other believers (fellowship)
- Growing in faith (discipleship)
- Using our God-given gifts in ministry to others (service)
- Falling more deeply in love with Jesus Christ (worship)

... Developing families of faith.

Proverbs 22:6

*Direct your children
onto the right path,
and when they are older,
they will not leave it.*

Recognizing that parents are the most powerful influences on their children's spiritual growth, CELC is building a comprehensive ministry to disciple parents and equip them to be their children's primary faith teachers and mentors:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION training prepares families for a child to participate in the Eucharist for the first time. Children and parents review the Biblical history from Passover to the Lord's Supper, learn about and experience the meaning of Holy Communion, and discuss the importance of confession and absolution (saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you"). Once completed, families participate in a special first communion opportunity.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES provide wonderful opportunities for God to speak to parents in prayer and Scripture, nourish and nurture them in their individual faith walks, and equip them to raise young disciples of Jesus Christ. CELC has a variety of small groups. For more information, please contact Florence Heacock at 301-652-5160 or email her at flohea@heartmindsoul.com.

MAKING DISCIPLES, CELC's confirmation ministry, is designed to lead pre-teens and teens through a deeper exploration of their faith. Confirmands meet several times each month for Bible learning, faith discussions, prayer and fun! They also participate in worship and servant projects and lead their families in monthly discipleship activities. After completing Making Disciples, Confirmands have the opportunity to confirm their faith in the spring.

CELC'S FAMILY MINISTRY RESOURCE ROOM contains a variety of books, DVDs, videos and other parenting resources. Please stop by to browse and borrow the materials – just make sure to check out and return any you borrow! Please also see the "Resources for Parents" bulletin board outside the resource room. (If the family minister is out, another staff member will unlock the door for you.)

CELC'S YOUTH GROUP meets weekly to hang out, pray, read the Bible, worship God and serve others. Our main goals are to encourage each other's growing relationships with Jesus Christ, support each other through life's many challenges and serve others. We also eat lots of pizza and have tons of fun!

**For more information on
Family Ministry at CELC,
please contact Laura North,
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