



parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**MIFFLIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Over the River and Through the Woods

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To help you be creative in planning a meaningful summer for your child(ren).
2. To help your kids try new adventures.
3. To help you to be courageous, strong and faithful.

We are officially at Summer. The time of year when we bring on the trips to the pool, barbecues at friends' and families' houses, day trips to the zoo, the amusement park, etc, and family vacations. Basically, as parents, we all strive to make the Summer as rich for our children as the rest of the year. In fact, I argue that the Summer brings more richness to our children, because the variety of experiences we throw their way really shapes their development.

In the Billman household, the Summer means lots of horse "stuff". It means riding at least three days a week, going to

weekend-long riding competitions as a family, and spending time at the county fairs with our 4-H club family. This year, though, we've added a few new challenges for our kids...Sam specifically.

First, this year, because we bought Sam her own horse for Easter, she will have a Summer job to help pay for her board. We are fortunate that Sam's coach very much believes in kids being part of the responsibility and cost of owning a horse. So, she gave Sam a job cleaning stalls, where the credit will go towards Peep's board costs.

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Over the River (continued)

Second, as part of buying Sam a three-year old, this Summer will require more work from her than normal in that she'll be assisting in training her horse. The Summer will be a transition from Chick to Peep and will have challenges with it. She will essentially go from riding a 19-year old mare who is bomb-proof to the 3-year old daughter of that mare, who is trying to see what she can get away with. And Sam understands there will be challenges and possibly scary moments, but her love for Peep and the sport will be what pulls her through (and lots of praying from mommy).

Last, our biggest venture for Sam this year is something that many parents experience: camp. This will be Sam's first year going away to camp...for a whole week...two hours away...on a college campus...
cue terrifying scream.

I am a naturally paranoid mother. This will be a big step for both her AND me. But she has been chomping at the bit to go to this particular camp for almost TWO YEARS. Samantha has always had University of Findlay at the top of her list of schools she wants to attend for college. When she found out they had a Youth Western Riding Camp, she HAD to go. But she was too young...until this year. So, we applied and crossed our fingers (apparently, spots are very limited and it always fills up fast) – she was accepted! We have our packet of info, all the legal waivers to fill out, our list of stuff to bring, and we're getting close.

Not only do I have the stress of getting everything together for her and her horse, Chick (thank the Lord that Sam's coach is an angel and is letting us take Chick with us), but I have the anxiety of "oh no, she will be two hours away, what if *insert major catastrophe here* happens???"

But as parents, we must realize that we can only do so much to safeguard our children in these scenarios. Because, OF COURSE, I want her to go to her dream college and spend a week riding her horse and learning how to be a better Western rider and make new friends. So, I spend time talking with her about "bad touch" and "trusting her gut" if something doesn't seem right. I pack sunscreen, sturdy boots, her first-aid kit, and her riding helmet. I beg her coach to let us bring Chick, so I don't worry about her getting stuck with a horse I don't know or trust...and hey, at least Chick is a familiar face when Sam gets homesick.

Most importantly, though, are the lessons we instill in our children spiritually. In Proverbs 22:6 we read, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." We should trust, as parents, we have set that path for our children and when faced with challenges outside of their parents' immediate assistance, they will make the right decision. After all, why else do we bring our kids to church, send them to Sunday school, and take them to VBS? To teach our kids faith.

And for the parents who fall in the same camp as myself (where the week of June 25th will be a mix of excitement for her growth as an equestrian and sheer terror for what extremely unlikely scenarios could befall her), we read in Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." And this is wisdom to pass onto our children, who are surely a mix of excitement and fear moving forward in life with milestones like this. Be courageous. Be strong. Be faithful.

Leyla Billman

Scripture of the Month (AND VBS verse!)

Do good! Seek peace and go after it.
Psalm 34:14

JUNE CALENDAR

Pentecost Celebration Sunday, June 4

Join us for a Pentecost Celebration for ALL ages as we gather together in the church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 4 at 9:15 am.. We will learn, sing, create and play together as the Holy Spirit moves among us. We continue our celebration in worship at 10:30 am, so wear red, orange or yellow!!

Bible Sunday for Toddlers Sunday, June 4

On Sunday, June 4 at the 10:30 am worship service we will be giving Bibles to our 2 year olds, as well as our 3 year olds who have not already received one. Please join us for this festive celebration.

Zoo Outing with Luundos Wednesday, June 7

Plans are underway for our zoo outing with the Luundos, the refugee family from Tanzania that we have been supporting.

Contact Kathi for more details—it may be later in July instead, so let her know if you are interested in that possibility..

Hero Central Vacation Bible School 2017 Sunday, June 11—Thursday, June 15

Is your child signed up yet for VBS?? Registration is now on the website at mifflinpres.org – spread the word!! Remember to spread the word to family, friends and neighbors—children must be age 4 and have completed some sort of preschool program.

We are preparing for our exciting week of VBS Sunday, June 11 – Thursday, June 15 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, with an optional dinner offered at 5:30 God". **We will be decorating for VBS as a part of our Summer of Service on Sunday, June 11 at 9:15 am – many hands make light work, so please plan to join us as we transform our building into Hero Central.**



Take Flat Jesus with You This Summer!!!

Wherever you go this summer, whether out of town, to the park or in your own backyard, know that Jesus is with you—and you can prove it! Click on "Flat Jesus" to the right to find out more about making

your own Flat Jesus—or come to the Pentecost Party this Sunday at 9:15 am to color and laminate your own Flat Jesus. Thanks to Emily Cremean for coloring this one!



SUMMER OF SERVICE



Be sure that your summer plans include time to serve others. Here are a few opportunities at Mifflin:

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Instead of Sunday School this summer, you are invited to join us each week for an intergenerational opportunity to serve our church, our community and our world. Each week we will gather at 9:15 am to perform a different service project:

- June 11 – Setting up for Vacation Bible School
- June 18 – Writing to our missionaries
- June 25 – Making Lunches for our Summer Lunch Program

No experience or sign-up is required. Join us on the Sundays you can, whether that's one time or every Sunday (or somewhere in between).

Open Shelter Monday, June 19

Mifflin serves dinner to over 100 people each third Monday. Summer is a great time to involve your kids! You can bake cookies beforehand or come and help prepare food or serve food downtown—lots of ways to get involved. Check the Info Center to sign up.

Play Date with the Luundos Up to you!

In addition to the possible zoo outing on June 7, members of our refugee family would love to be a part of your summer plans—ball games, pool parties, playing in the park. Contact Kathi for more info.