

PLANNING TIP

Generally, the larger your children's ministry, the more lead time you'll need before an activity to plan, publicize and conduct it. For example:

		SMALL Congregation	MEDIUM Congregation	LARGE Congregation
3	Plan major children's events	6 months	6 months	12 months
T H	Plan for VBS	6 months	6 Months	6-8 Months
	Recruit leaders	1 month	2 months	3 months
	Background checks & Safe Sanctuary paperwork	2 months	2 months	3 months
T D D	Publicity	2 months	3 months	4-6 months
	Registration	1 month	2 months	3 months

1 month

2 weeks

2-3 months

Order & purchase supplies

- Meet with Children's Council to set dates for all major CM events in 2019
- Set dates for VBS
- Choose VBS Directors
- Choose and purchase or borrow VBS starter kit.
- Valentine's Day mission/outreach project for children

Things to do

Attend Beyond CM Conference

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Important days this month

1st—New Year's Day

6th—Epiphany

13th—Baptism of our Lord

21st—MLKing Jr. Day

- Meet with VBS Directors to select VBS team leaders (snacks, decor etc..)
- Contact VBS team leaders to confirm assignments
- Monthly mission/outreach activities
- Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday activities and worship for children
- Lenten study/activities for children

Things to do

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Important days this month

14th—Valentine's Day 18th—President's Day

Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th

- Meet with VBS directors and team leaders to start recruiting teachers and helpers for all areas
- Palm Sunday participation in worship
- Meet with Children's Council to plan special Easter celebration for children

Things to do

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Important days this month

3rd—Transfiguration Sunday

6th—Ash Wednesday/ Lent begins

10th—Lent—First Sunday

17th—Lent—Second Sunday/St. Patrick's Day

24th/31st—Lent—Third and Fourth Sundays

- Plan and schedule VBS volunteer training sessions with VBS Directors.
- Begin volunteer background check process for all VBS volunteers following your church's Safe Sanctuary policy.
- Meet with Children's Council to plan special summer activities.
- Mother's and Father's day recognition
- Begin teacher recruitment for fall.

Things to do

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Important days this month

7th—Lent—Fifth Sunday

14th—Beginning of Holy Week/Palm Sunday

18th—Maundy Thursday

19th—Good Friday

21st—Easter

- Begin VBS registration May 1st
- Publicity for VBS and special Summer activities
- Meet with pastor and worship leaders to plan children's participation in Pentecost worship services.
- Research International Children's Sabbath in preparation for June's planning sessions.

Things to do

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Important days this month

12th—Mother's Day
Festival of the Christian Home
27th—Memorial Day

- Meet with Children's Council to plan special fall activities, promotion Sunday and back-to-school activities.
- Meet with pastor, worship leaders to plan for children's participation in worship on Children's Sabbath.
- Meet with UMW representatives to enlist help for Children's Sabbath

Things to do

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Important days this month

9th—Pentecost

16th—Father's day and Trinity Sunday

- Meet with pastor and worship leaders to plan teacher consecration and children's blessing of the backpacks in each worship service the Sunday before public schools start..
- Begin publicity for Quest
- Acolyte training before Labor Day
- Christmas program if you have a children's choir or drama team

Things to do

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Important days this month

4th—Independence Day

- Promote Quest event for 3rd-5th graders.
- Complete Background Checks for all adults accompanying students to Quest in September by the end of August..
- Graduation ceremonies for 5 year olds to elementary classes and 5th graders to youth group

Things to do

August	2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	4	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Important days this month

Promotion Sunday
Special Recognition of Students and teachers returning to school in worship services

- Complete Conference Safe Sanctuary paperwork for Quest..
- Meet with Children's Council to plan end-of-October family event (Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat etc.)
- Begin rehearsals for Christmas program this month

Things to do

Take a group of kids to Quest!

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Important days this month

2nd—Labor Day 28th—Quest (for 3rd-5th graders) at St... James UMC in LR

- Family Advent activity for 1st Sunday in Advent.
- Leader appreciation event in November before Thanksgiving for all Children's Ministry volunteers.

Things to do

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Important days this month

6th—World Communion Sunday

14th—Columbus Day

20th—International Children's Sabbath

31st—Halloween

Daylight Savings Time ends November 3rd

- Meet with Children's Council to set dates for all major CM events in 2020.
- Plan and submit a Children's Ministry budget for 2020.
- Complete charge conference paperwork if applicable.
- Register for Beyond Children's Ministry Conference to be held January, 2020

Things to do

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Important days this month

1st—All Saints Day

3rd—All Saints Day celebrated

11th—Veteran's Day

24th—Christ the King Sunday

28th—Thanksgiving

• New Year and Epiphany activities.

Things to do

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Important days this month

1st—Advent—First Sunday

8th—Advent—Second Sunday

15th—Advent—Third Sunday

22nd—Advent—Fourth Sunday

25th—Christmas