



Winter News Letter

Wesleyan Chapel Youth Fellowship (WCYF)

November 30, 2018

Greetings Wesleyan Chapel family,

December marks the beginning of our 2019 youth calendar year and I am excited to present the plan for what's to come. The year is already starting off with bang, having already raised over \$1,200.00 towards our annual ski trip to Lake Junaluska (Martin Luther King weekend).

We have been digging into God's word together and connecting through outings like Pilgrimage and disaster clean-up efforts. This month we will be examining the following topics: suffering, the meaning of life, hope, and the relevance of God in our daily lives. We will also be defining human dignity and will have an opportunity to connect with members of our community who are experiencing poverty. The outreach I am planning goes deeper than simply serving the poor at a soup kitchen. I want to help our teens discover the most important part of service, which is people, not the service itself.

In our consumer-based society, our motives have shifted from we to me –from community centric to “I-centric.” Without even knowing it, we ask ourselves, “how is what I'm doing going to benefit me?” Even our Christmas spirit is at risk of becoming tainted with the I-centric, consumer mentality. Some of us might seek to serve the poor because it looks good and makes us feel good about ourselves. We take pictures of our service and post them to our pages, so others can see what good people we are...all at the expense of another's dignity. In this way, we are actually consuming the poor, not serving them. We are going to step outside of that mentality this season as we connect with others.

4th Quarter 2018 Reflection

Over the past four months I have gotten to know your kids. They are super smart and a lot of fun. They know considerably more about the “things” we wish to shield them from than I anticipated. Because of this, we will be going a much deeper this year in our study of faith, history, and future. We will continue discussing mature topics and preparing our teens to experience life away from home, as independent young disciples of Jesus Christ.

Celebrations and Thanks

I want to celebrate some victories with you. In August we set out to create a Youth Council to plan and steer the youth program here at WCUMC. We have done that. Your Youth Council is comprised of adults and youth who care about the future of our teens and they are doing a great job dreaming up activities and connection opportunities. You can view our calendar of events on the “Youth” page of our church website. Click on the “Events” tab or simply follow the link here: https://www.wesleyanchapel.org/uploads/2/0/6/2/20628476/events_page.pdf

Youth Council: Jen Atkinson, Amanda Hamra, Sandra Lucera, Lou Reynolds, Makayla Thornhill, Susan Thornhill, and Jamie Wrede. I would like to especially thank Sandra Lucera for her time and energy in creating our annual budget and Patrick Ecklund for being a consistent presence in our group. Thanks, guys!



Another point of celebration is growth. Our structure is expanding and so is our group. Each week it seems like we're getting a little bigger AND a little closer. That's a good thing. I encourage all of you to consider how you might personally get involved as your presence and support are greatly needed. If you're afraid your son or daughter wouldn't want you there, I have a place you can serve that will ease your concerns. Please take a minute to review all the areas you can plug into and help us grow.

1. Prayer Warriors: Pray for and/or with youth, lead prayers (if comfortable), teach prayer methods, pray privately
2. Administrators: Gather/maintain youth member contact information, make copies, order supplies, etc.
3. Spec. Ops: Create action plans for outreach, ministry, retreats, and events
4. Log-Dogs: Travel planning, lodging, transportation, food prep/meals/snacks, supplies, etc.
5. Money-Bags: Maintain youth budget, organize fund raisers, record money in-out
6. Artsy-Smartsy: Take pictures, manage social media, create poster boards, graphics, music, tech.
7. Rockers: Lead worship, DJ events, sound, etc.
8. Roadies: Escorts, chaperones, adult group leaders, mentors, cheer-leaders
9. Foodies: Plan, organize, coordinate meals, make snacks, bake sales, etc.
10. Corks: Non-committal, "plug me in wherever" people who just want to support in some other way.

If God is nudging you as you read this, please contact me directly for more information on how to get plugged in.

1st Quarter 2019 Events

December 16th: Bake Sale. Youth and adult servants needed for all baking and selling of goods during breakfast. All proceeds will go towards reducing the admission price for the Kaleidoscope retreat in April.

December 23rd: Walking Tall Ministry Reverse Advent Boxes. Collecting and delivering items for members of our community who are experiencing poverty. Delivery location TBD.

January 18-21: Lake Junaluska ski retreat. \$200 per person: all food, ski rental, transportation, and lodging included. Chaperones needed. Registration and fees due no later than Dec. 16th.

February: Down-time, planning, nothing scheduled.

I hope you are as excited as I am to participate in what God is doing in this body! Connect with us: Facebook @ "Wesleyan Chapel Youth Fellowship" | REMIND: Text "@wcumchelp" to 81010 | Instagram: @ "wcumc_youth"

Individual Fund-Raising Opportunity

Any teen who wants to raise money towards their trips can earn \$10 an hour working in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. Ask me how and I'll get them plugged in.

Stay salty my friends,

"Coach"

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