



400 S Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32792

Youth Room

November/December 2020

Volume 3, Number 5

The end of the year is coming! I don't think I've ever been more excited to say good-bye to it!

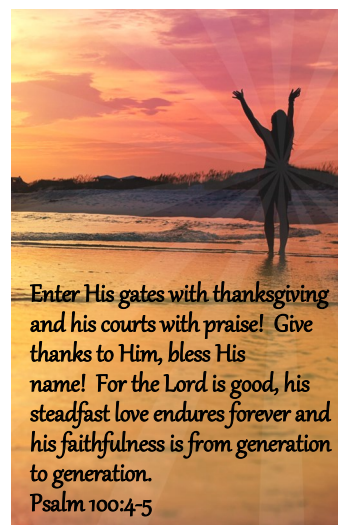
Okay, so 2020 hasn't exactly been a banner year. But it's certainly been a notable chapter in our books. It's one that we'll look back on, maybe not with fondness, but as the story we'll tell the "youngins" when we're old and gathered around the Thanksgiving Table. "When I was a kid living in the year 2020..." is how dozens of stories will start. True, it's not what we expected when we were gearing up to begin this journey in 2019, but 2020 has been notable.

I've been amazed and proud of everything that I've seen you all do in these last few months, the willingness you've had to stare into the eyes of a world-wide Pandemic and claim your life. Many of you have continued to work, found jobs, and taken on volunteer positions. You've continued to go to school, continued ROTC, continued to adapt to these challenges that life has thrown at you. You've talked with me and told me about how you are doing in these times. While some of you are doing better than others, I've been impressed with the way you have been able to identify what you are feeling and your willingness to nurture the good feelings and improve the bad ones. You have not let these times beat you down. And that, my dear Youth Disciples, is what makes you fearless, bold, and miraculous.

2020 is coming to an end. 2021 will probably continue to see some of the fall out from this year. There are still a lot of questions as to what the new year will look like, but in these pages I hope that you will find hope; perhaps a glimmer of life as you knew it. In this issue you'll find information on

Christmas Eve and how you can volunteer for Living Nativity (we really need your help this year more than ever). You'll also find information on the Montreat Youth Conference 2021, which we are planning to attend with our High Schoolers this summer. You'll also find dates for the remaining Youth Groups in November and December.

For now we are sticking with our zoom check-ins and every other week gatherings, but I must tell you what a delight it has been to participate in these with you. Seeing your faces every week brings me joy. If you haven't participated in a Zoom Check-in and played one of our online games, I highly encourage it. It's only for an hour and it brightens the day of youth leaders to see you. Please stay tuned for more information on the coming Youth Activities and parents look out for more info from me coming via e-mail. In December we will be assessing the numbers again and sending out another survey to decide your willingness to let our youth gather together again.



*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name! For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness is from generation to generation.
Psalm 100:4-5*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- November 7 - Serena Helton (13)
- November 19 - Avery Erb (12)
- December 7 - Tina Roberts (16)
- December 7 - Shane Roberts (16)
- December 8 - Annabelle Bartholomew (15)



Youth Group Dates

Due to COVID-19 please make note of the following dates for Activities and Zoom Check-ins. I love seeing you every week, whether it is in person or on the computer destroying me in the latest internet game! (Some day I will beat you Sam Harmeson!)

November 1-Zoom check-in 5-6pm

November 8-Co-op activity @ church, dinner provided.

November 15-Zoom Check-in 5-6pm

November 22-No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Break)

November 29-Activity TBD

December 6-Zoom check-in 5-6pm

December 13-Winter Christmas Party: Go Kart edition! We're back to the world of Go-Karts this year as we celebrate the holidays together!

December 20 & 27 & January 3-No Youth Group (Christmas/New Year Break)

In January we will announce the results of our re-evaluation and let you know what to look for in the Spring Semester!



Volunteer Opportunities



Christmas at the Church has always been a time for Youth to volunteer for something special! This year is no different! Our activities and events may look a little different from years past, but they are going to be just as special.

First and foremost, on Christmas Eve we will be having our 5pm Family Service. I will be looking for youth to serve as liturgists, actors & actresses, and potentially singers in this service. If you play an instrument, sing, or would like to dawn a costume (no lines required) Please contact Emily Wasser.

In addition, WPPC will be attempting a different take on the Living Nativity this year. It's an ambitious project that we have planned and it requires volunteers. Lots and lots of volunteers. I'm going to need youth as well as parents, children, cousins, friends, boy scout troops, that neighbor across the street you've never talked to...anyone you got! Most of the need will be to have people dress up and participate in tableaux. However there will also be the opportunity for you to serve as a speaker. Living Nativity will take place this year on December 19 from 7-9PM. If you are in town and available, please consider contacting Emily Wasser and asking how you can help this year! Please help us continue this wonderful tradition!

Montreat Sign-ups

The time has come once more to set our sights toward the mountains of North Carolina! In the summer of 2021 our High School Youth will have the opportunity once more to attend the Montreat Youth Conference. This year we will attend the conference from August 1-August 7. The conference total, per person, is about \$1000. The church is asking that families pay \$500. This includes the cost of the conference, transportation, room & board, and Wednesday afternoon activities. If you are a High Schooler who would like to attend the Montreat Youth Conference, please turn in the RSVP slip, found in the church office, as well as a \$250 non-refundable deposit, to hold your place, by December 1st. Please note that at this time Montreat is planning for an "in person" conference. Should plans change throughout the year, they will contact us directly. For more information please contact Emily Wasser!



COVID-19 Requirements for Youth Group



Please note, due to the effects of COVID-19, we are asking that everyone attending any "in person" events for youth group please observe the following etiquette to protect themselves and those around them.

- Masks are to be worn at all times except when eating and drinking. If you do not have a mask then one will be provided for you.
- Please use sanitizer and wash hands often. We will have sanitizer on site for any who doesn't have their own.
- Please keep hands to yourself as we try to give others their space.
- If you or any member of your family test positive for COVID-19 after coming to Youth Group, please notify the Church immediately.



We have come up with some great ways to have fun, socialize, and learn this year without having to be too close together! Though Youth Group may look a bit different this year, we promise that the fun will remain! All precautions are done with the health and safety of everyone in mind because caring for each other is the greatest task God has given us! Help us to fulfill this awesome calling we all have by following these restrictions.

Concerts Season



The holidays are a wonderful time of the year for musicians! If you are performing in a school concert, whether it is "in person" or "online", whether you play tuba, guitar, or sing soprano, I want to see you! Be sure to let Emily Wasser know the dates and times of your Christmas concerts or programs, please let her know if tickets are best purchased in advance, or if there are an special COVID-19 precautions in place! I'll do my best to be there for you!