
Youth Ministries

Youth Ministry at FUMC



THROUGH OUR YOUTH PROGRAM HERE AT FUMC WE STRIVE TO MAKE YOUNG DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST BY CONNECTING YOUTH TO GOD, EACH OTHER AND A GREAT PURPOSE! HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF HOW WE LIVE OUT OUR MISSION:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM IS DIVIDED INTO TWO AGE GROUPS. BOTH GROUPS, JUNIOR HIGH (GRADES 7-8) AND SENIOR HIGH (GRADES 9-12), MEET IN THE YOUTH ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING AT 9:45 A.M. SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP BEFORE SEPARATING IN TO DIFFERENT CLASSROOMS. OUR PROGRAM UTILIZES A UNITED METHODIST SIX YEAR CURRICULUM CALLED "CLAIM THE LIFE" THAT TEACHES THE YOUTH THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN VALUES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY AND EXPERIMENTAL METHODS.

THE OUTSIDE: THE OUTSIDE IS OUR PROGRAM FOR ALL YOUTH GRADES 7-12. THE GROUP MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 6:30-8 P.M. OUR TIME BEGINS WITH A LIGHT MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP. THEN WE MOVE INTO A TIME OF BIBLE STUDY WHERE WE SEPARATE THE YOUTH BY GENDER AND BY AGE FOR A LOOK AT HOW GOD'S WORD IS RELEVANT IN OUR LIVES. AND WE END OUR NIGHT WITH FRIENDLY GAMES AND A SENDING FORTH WITH PRAYER.

MISSION AND SERVICE: OUR YOUTH PROGRAM IS VERY COMMITTED TO SERVING OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND OUR WORLD SERVICE PROJECTS AND MISSION TRIPS. IN THE FALL, WE HOST A CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY CALLED "TRUNK OR TREAT" THAT PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR THE CHILDREN OF GONZALES TO TRICK OR TREAT AND HAVE FUN. IN JANUARY, WE COLLECT FOOD AND OTHER DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRY THROUGH THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING. IN THE SPRING, WE RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR HUNGER AND POVERTY BY FASTING FOR 30 HOURS THROUGH THE 30 HOUR FAMINE EVENT. DURING THE SUMMER WE HAVE TWO WEEK-LONG MISSION TRIPS; ONE FOR THE JR. HIGH AND ONE FOR THE SR. HIGH.

CONFIRMATION: OUR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM IS AN 8-10 WEEK CLASS FOR 6TH GRADERS TO LEARN AND EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND METHODIST HERITAGE IN ORDER FOR THEM TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT WHAT THEY BELIEVE. THIS CLASS IS TAUGHT IN THE SPRING AND FACILITATED BY OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR. AT THE END OF THE CLASS THE YOUTH DECIDE IF THEY ARE READY TO MAKE A PUBLIC CONFESSION OF THEIR FAITH. A CLASS FOR YOUTH WHO ARE OLDER THAN 6TH GRADE IS ALSO AVAILABLE EVERY OTHER YEAR.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: SOME OF THE OTHER EVENTS THOUGH OUT THE YEAR ARE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT, SUPER BOWL PARTY, CONCERTS, SLIME OLYMPICS, 5TH QUARTER BLOCK PARTY, SKI TRIP AND CAMPING TRIP.

ALONG WITH ALL THESE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OUR YOUTH PROGRAM STRIVES TO GIVE EACH YOUTH A SAFE PLACE TO MEET WITH FRIENDS AND TO CONNECT WITH GOD. FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR YOUTH MINISTRY HERE AT FIRST UMC PLEASE CONTACT OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR, JOEL GRIFFIN AT 830-672-8521 OR RJGRIFFIN@GVEC.NET.

The Outside: The Outside is our program for all youth grades 7-12. The group meets every Wednesday night from 6:30-8 p.m. Our time begins with a light meal and fellowship. Then we move into a time of Bible study where we separate the youth by gender and by age for a look at how God's Word is relevant in our lives. And we end our night with friendly games and a sending forth with prayer.

Mission and Service: Our youth program is very committed to serving our church, community and our world service projects and mission trips. In the fall, we host a Children's Halloween Party called "Trunk or Treat" that provides a safe place for the children of Gonzales to trick or treat and have fun. In January, we collect food and other donations for our local Assistance Ministry through the Souper Bowl of Caring. In the spring, we raise money and awareness for hunger and poverty by fasting for 30 hours through the 30 Hour Famine event. During the summer we have two week-long mission trips; one for the Jr. High and one for the Sr. High.

Confirmation: Our Confirmation program is an 8-10 week class for 6th graders to learn and explore the Christian faith and Methodist heritage in order for them to make an informed decision about what they believe. This class is taught in the spring and facilitated by our Youth Director. At the end of the class the youth decide if they are ready to make a public confession of their faith. A class for youth who are older than 6th grade is also available every other year.

Other Activities: Some of the other events though out the year are Outdoor Movie Night, Super Bowl Party, Concerts, Slime Olympics, 5th Quarter Block Party, Ski trip and Camping trip.

Along with all these activities and events our youth program strives to give each youth a safe place to meet with friends and to connect with God. For questions or more information about our Youth Ministry here at First UMC please contact our Youth Director, Joel Griffin at 830-672-8521 or rjgriffin@gvec.net.