

Council Report for Youth Ministry
Peter Fox
October 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Peter here with all the news regarding our youth. YG and Faith Formation have started up, and things are getting off to a great start. Everything might be a little different, but kids have been adapting over these past months, and we have too. That said, we're trying to keep things as 'normal' and 'regular' as possible, to make everyone feel comfortable and welcome. So we are filling the calendar up like usual, just being a lot more open to any needed changes as they surface. Here is a taste of what we've done so far.

We started off the month of September with the first YG on the 13th. Around 40 YG and Advisors met outside for this intro night of faith, fun, and fellowship. Everyone was masked on and socially distanced, but that did not spoil the atmosphere. Kids were glad to be back in session and seeing one another. The night was a blast, and the weather held up into a gorgeous autumn evening. We talked about the year, learned more about each other, established traditions, played games, engaged in conversation, and had prayer together. The theme for this YG year is HOPE. Throughout this year, we will focus on all aspects of this word; both on a personal level, a collective level, and a social level. Every meeting will relate back to this key concept, in understanding why having hope in Jesus is so important. It's more than just a "feeling" or a "wish". Hope in Jesus is a confidence that God is with you, no matter what. It is knowing that God truly has our backs. We need to take solace in this hope, that all things happen through Christ. This is the only hope that promises all things. Our bible verse for the year is JEREMIAH 29: 11 which says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope". All and all, this first YG was good one, and I'm looking forward to the year. It should be awesome!

On Sunday, the 27th we had YG MINI-GOLF at City Island. Over 30 of us descended on City Island Watergolf for a night of pure fun and fellowship. It was a blast from start to finish. There were so many new faces to YG that turned out on this night. This serves a great laid back night to circulate around and get to meet and be in conversation with the YG. The weather was once again top notch, and the night a success.

Faith formation has officially begun as well. On Sunday, October 4, all classes started back up for youth. Sessions for these fall and winter months will be on Zoom, on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. Middle School Connect is for grades 6 - 8, and Sr. High F.O.J. is for grades 9 - 12. I have great teachers spearheading each group, so I am expecting good things to happen. The first sessions for both classes went very well, and were a good start. Hopefully these classes will grow as we move forward. The curriculum that we are using is from the Orange group, and it's very relational. I like it a lot. It will hopefully elicit lots of quality faith based conversation. The teachers like it, and I think the students will as well.

Well, that's a lot said. Bottom line, things are happening. We will keep keeping on strive to keep people connected whether remotely or in person. That said, I have to go, more

planning needs to take place, and time is more stretched than ever. Please continue to keep our youth and parents in your prayers as they adjust to school, church and life.

Yours in Christ,
Peter Fox
Director of Youth & Student Ministry