

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

February 2026



We Are Honored | Steve Pausch

There has been so much happening here since our last newsletter communication, and that is because of your prayer and financial support. Thank you for standing with us as we seek to help teens through the often confusing teen years. We are incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to be involved in the lives of teens and participate in many activities.

An overnight trip with senior boys was very productive. We talked through what it means to have assurance of salvation, what Jesus did for us on the cross, and what is the purpose and meaning of baptism. We have been amazed lately how much young people are looking for someone to listen and talk with. The void in communication that has been created because of social media has given us greater opportunities to be in conversations about life issues. There is a lot of confusion regarding God and religion, and we wade through those issues many times a week during discussions with teens.

Some new leaders have joined our ministry with young people in the Sandusky County Detention Center, and they are getting involved in the lives of the teens. This is a unique setting but provides good insights into the lives of the teens there. Please pray for all of our adult leaders who are willing to dig into the lives of young people and tell them about Jesus. These good discussions often come from painful places with teens. Please pray for our staff as they care for kids and often carry that burden too.

Recently, we also had the privilege of having 32 adults from Leadership Medina County, a countywide organization that seeks to develop effective business and community leaders, visit our ministry site in Brunswick, That Place for Teens. We were able to

show them our space and some activities we do with teens. We split them into groups and had them reminisce and share about being a 13-year-old. Then we got them up and playing some of the games we involve we play with teens. It was a good afternoon, and we are hoping some of them will either help with meals, volunteer, or financially support our work.

We are seeing our numbers increase at each of our meetings with teens as they invite friends to our events. We are in need of more people to help pray for and fund this work, please pass this newsletter on to someone you think might be interested in what God is doing in the lives of teens. Thank you!

Beat Up, Blown Up, and Snowed In | Matt Mountjoy

This week has been an interesting one for me. It started right before the massive winter storm hit while I was snowboarding with my son. I have been snowboarding for the past few years. I'm decent at it, but apparently not good enough to make split second sharp turns. I was making a turn, and out of my blindspot right in my path came small child on skis. While I probably should've just sat down and had a slightly rough stop, my first reaction was to turn sharply downhill and away. This was the wrong decision as I caught my toe edge and went hurtling downhill face first. I landed first with my hands out in front of me and immediately felt my shoulder jam, bit my lip as I flipped straight over my face and landed on my back skidding to a stop. I took a minute to judge if I was injured or just hurt. But I finished out a few more runs and called it a day. The next night laying in bed I felt like I had been in a car wreck, I was beat up. Then last night, after the snow storm, I decided to brave the two degree weather to grill. When I went to check on the grill temperature I noticed it was out and assumed the propane was empty...spoiler, it was not. I went to connect another tank and opened the lid to make sure it was all aired out but didn't wait very long assuming it had run out. In reality the stove pipe cap had broken and fallen onto the pipe not allowing ventilation, which suffocated the flame and allowed for a massive build up of gas. God was looking out for me. I was still bent down low by the tank and not standing over the grill when I hit the ignite button. Whoosh: a massive fireball exploded. I dove back and buried my face in a snow pile next to me. I came out with no burns, but also no eyelashes and much shorter eye brows and beard.

I don't know if it was the relief that I still had most of my eyebrows, but I was in a pretty chipper mood. I started to think, man what a week...and it would easy to ques-

tion and be negative about all the wild things happening. So I started to think about why am I not? Short answer, God is in control. A potentially bad shoulder injury and a slightly odd look is certainly nothing compared to the trials of Horatio Spafford, but the theology found in his song “It Is Well With My Soul” carries throughout all circumstances of life. We currently have a massive number of new kids in the ministry that have zero background in Jesus or the Bible. We have been teaching them that following Christ is about more than just a get out of Hell card...there is so much peace in knowing we have a Loving God sitting on the throne and He is completely sovereign. There are crazy levels of depression and anxiety in teens today as they see the things around them. How can there be peace? How can people have peace in their souls? The answer is Christ, and more Christ! He is the one who comes alongside us and guides us, His yoke is easy and He provides rest for our souls! This is what we are focusing on with many of our new students, whether you have had a bad week, or the world seems too dark, or too out of control- Jesus has a way for you to have peace and contentment. God is sovereign! We can lean on God in all times and have confidence that regardless of what will come, God wins in the end – Christ has already earned that victory, and we have a way to share with Him!

Pop Up Prom Dress | Laurie Beal

Please help spread the word to teens in your circle! We are hosting our first ever "Prom Pop-up" at The Garage! (Normally, we just have shoppers by appointment.)

We recognized a need about a decade ago.. The excessive costs of a dance were preventing many of the teens from being able to attend school dances, including prom. We put a post on Facebook about this need. We recognized that many people probably had formal dresses that were worn once and now were hanging in a closet and asked them to join us in a mission to help ensure that ALL teens could participate in these memorable milestones. Donations started pouring in! People were glad to be able to free up some space in closets and, at the same time, be able to see their fancy dresses and bless someone else. Along with the dresses, we started collecting dress shoes, suits, shirts and ties and jewelry. We've even had a few vendors give us free makeup! And we have a local florist who saw what we were doing and wanted to jump in, and they offered free corsages and boutonnieres.

This has been such a fun and rewarding ministry to be involved with and a way to

shower teens with the love of Christ in a tangible way. Through word of mouth and social media, we've been able to reach hundreds of teens all throughout the state...with some driving for over an hour to come shop.

We are not only blessed to be able to ensure they get to attend the dances along with their peers, but we also get to meet teens that we might not otherwise get to meet. This naturally gives us an opportunity to invite them to come to our other programs! Also, often a parent brings them, and while they are shopping, we often get a window into their current family situations. There are usually other needs they have, and we can help steer them to other agencies/churches to help fill those gaps.

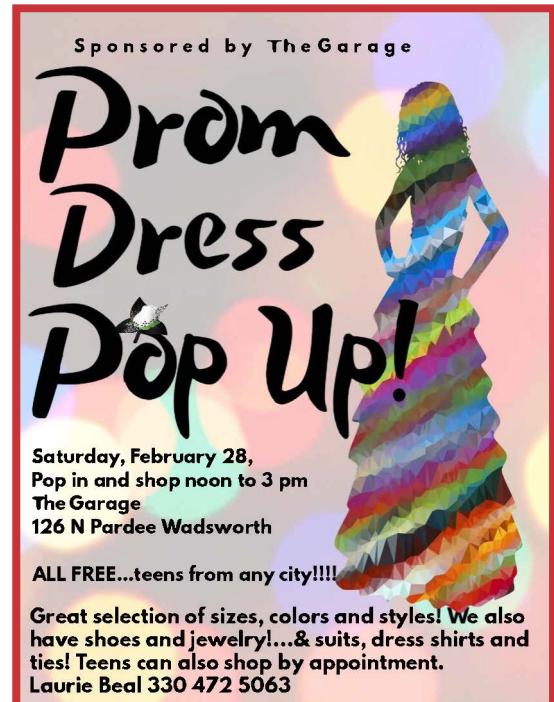
Ways you can help to make this event a success:

* We collect gently used/ new formal dance dresses, suits, fancy shoes, fancy jewelry, new makeup year-round. They can be put in our red donation door 24/7. The Garage, 126 N Pardee.

* Buy/bake cookies for the event .. drop off at The Garage, Feb 28, between 10am and 11am.

* Volunteer the day of the event, February 28. We'll need dress consultants to help gals shop, people to help restock dresses and greeters!

"Each one should us whatever gifts he has received to serve others. Faithfully administering God's grace in it's various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



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