



June 2022

What's So Different About Summer? | Steve Pausch

School's out and kids across our ministry areas are excited ,and so are we. Summer provides many new and different avenues to spend time with young people, and we are looking forward to all that will happen.

Planned... We have a rafting trip planned for early June, several days of Bike Repair, cooking, carpentry, and craft sessions for young people in Brunswick, and our team in Fremont will continue to meet with the young people in the detention center throughout the summer. We have introductory social events for teens who will be entering middle school next fall at our teen center and day trips with Teen Mothers in Wadsworth.

Get togethers... Social media has given birth to a new way to reach young people. Inviting teens to a special impromptu gathering at our centers or a local hang-out will give us access to teens and their friends this summer. The mystery and excitement of these meetings have been a big hit with teens as we gather for talks and often pizza. Bonfires, fishing, basketball pick up games and other sports will also help to get to know teens this summer.

We have some Bible Verses that will guide our work this summer as we meet to share Christ with teens.

Colossians 4:4-6... "Pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

1 Thessalonians 2:8..."We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but our lives as well."

1 Peter 3:15..."But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

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Summer Continued

Summer is full of ways to be with young people, get to know them and share the love of Christ with them. We are seeing the numbers picking back up again that have been down since COVID. We are in need of more workers to help tell teens about Jesus. Please pray that God will call more people to this vital mission field.

Sun's Out, Fun's Out(side) | Matt Mountjoy

As the weather turns for the summer, so does our scheduled programming. We like to take the opportunity to use the summer and give our volunteers a break from their weekly commitment and still have weekly options for the kids. The summer weather allows for various options and outdoor activities that we try to take advantage of. Coming up first is our big beginning of summer water fight event, Water Wars! This is an event that kids look forward to all year long and is a great way to kick off the summer. Other plans that we have include overnights, bonfires, and tie in's with Wadsworth's First Friday events. These outdoor opportunities not only provide a unique change up to the regular weekly programming of the school, but they are great recruiting opportunities to get new kids attending the Garage. There is just something special and fun to be able to get a little dirty and have fun outside that is inviting to new people. As we enter the summer programming section of our year, please be praying for new kids to get involved and for everyone in the ministry to be able to use new and creative ways to reach kids!

Signing Up and Lining Up | Steve Pausch

Students in Brunswick have been signing up for our summer ministry programs, and we are looking forward to a busy summer ministering to teens. Here are some of what we are doing and will be discussing.

Wrench and Ride Using donated bikes, we meet with young people to learn basic maintenance skills. Students choose a bike, assess repair issues, then return for another sessions where we finish up the repairs and then the student gets to keep the bike. We talk about how each piece of a bike is unique and serves a specific purpose to make a bike work. Likewise, God has designed and planned us for a specific purpose. **Psalm 139:13 is our theme verse for the wrench and ride....You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.**

Craft Days ...We have some craft days on the calendar where we will allow teens to show their creativity and be able to take their creation home with them. We talk about how God gives each of us different gifts and talents and he wants us to use them for good. **1 Peter 4:10 Each of you**

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Signing Up continued

should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms .

Basic Carpentry and Basic Plumbing... God created the heavens and earth from nothing, but this summer we will take what God created and show young people how to use tools and build a wooden toolbox that they will be able to keep for their tools. Since God created water, we have been trying to control it. We will take some time to teach teens some of the basics of plumbing. Soldering, drain cleaning, installing a faucet, and repairing a leak— all while discussing God's plan for humanity.

In the Kitchen We will be providing several sessions this summer to show kids how to be creative in the kitchen. Dessert Night, Candy Making, Breakfast Food Bonanza and Specialty Sandwich Night will help whet their appetites to learn more. There are several stories of food in the Bible that we will talk about while cooking. Manna from heaven, the miracle of the 2 loaves and 5 fish, and being thankful for all we have will be a part of our discussions as we work in the kitchen.

We have other events happening at the teen center: Welcome to middle school social events, community hikes and bike rides, build a robot, a car wash and a few not yet publicized secret events for the teens of Brunswick. Please pray that we not only have a great time building, eating, and learning, but we also have a special time of discussion and learning about following Jesus.

God's Story, Our Story, Teens' Stories | Laurie Beal

We recently did a series of weekly testimonies at the Garage, our ministry stie in Wadsworth. Each of our mentors took a Thursday night for their turn and shared about their life and their relationship with Christ and how that relationship came to be.

Youth for Christ, as a whole, sees the value in the concept that our 3 circle logo represents. Our story and God's story and a young person's story all overlap and intertwine in some way. As we build relationships, we get to discover what those overlapping pieces are. Some of our common experiences and things we have in common are cool and fun to talk about, and some are hard things to share about. Regardless, there is a certain type of beauty found in ALL of it.



As a teen, I remember feeling alienated a bit from adults who tried to give unsolicited advice without really getting to know me. I truly felt I didn't have much in common with them, didn't feel they could relate to what was going on in my life and when they spoke to me about matters of faith I honestly tuned most of it out. I love how YFC groups focus on building relationships and

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Stories Continued

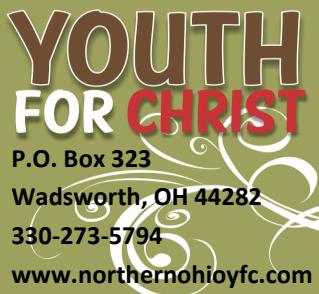
earning trust and finding common ground and truly investing, non-judgmentally in the lives of young people. That's where the important stuff happens!

The stories we heard over the last weeks from mentors were told in a variety of ways and were filled with struggles and triumphs and emotions that we could all relate to. I, myself, learned something new about each of our mentors, and feel connected on an even deeper level with the folks I serve alongside. I could also see the connections with the teens and the mentors being started with the newer kids and cemented with our regulars. I loved listening to the questions the kids had after.

I was the last person to share my story and started from the very beginning, even before I was born. I talked about how God used the experiences in my life and in my parents' lives to bring me to where I was today. I tried to bring hope to situations they may be dealing with and how those hard things can be turned around to God's glory if we cling tight to Him and let Him do that in our lives. I talked about good memories and talked about struggles and real stuff. The teens were attentive and had some good questions.

Afterwards, one of the gals who has been coming for several years pulled me aside and thanked me for sharing and shared how her relationship with Christ has grown and evolved so much since she started coming. She then dug in deep in conversation to some common hard stuff we have endured and shared how I had helped her through some very rough times. THAT conversation will stick with me forever.

The fact that God has me and all of the others I serve alongside, in this place, at this time, with these kids, allowing us to help them stay afloat....it's a blessing that I will always recognize and be thankful for All glory to GOD!



Steve Pausch
Executive Director

Laurie Beal
Director of Ministry-
Wadsworth

Barb Pfeiffer
Office Manager

Local Ministry Directors:
Scott Hulet
Herb Miller
Matt Mountjoy
Roger Seward
Stacey Stender

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John Heese
Barbara Moran-
Engler
Eric Pfeiffer
Bobby Puls
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