

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

March 2025



Thank you! | Steve Pausch



Last month, we shared the need to have some round tables to help our discussion times at our teen center in Brunswick

Thank you to those who responded and provided the resources for those. The tables are truly making our dinner discussions more effective!



Fresh Faces | Matt Mountjoy

One of the coolest things about youth ministry is the opportunity to meet new kids. This is cool because we have the opportunity to share God's word with someone new. But why do we even care to do that? It is because we truly love these kids! These kids are stamped with the image of God, and are so deserving to hear about the love that God has for them. The Bible says that we love because He first loved us, and I know this to be true. God created us to be relational, and then through His divine love we then can love others. So when a new kid walks into our doors and we barely know them, we can genuinely care about them. On top of that, God has just put a special place in our heart for teens. As challenging as it can be to work with teens sometimes, it really is just such an awesome thing to be able to build Christ sharing relationships with these young people. It's an honor to get to know these kids and their stories and be able to try to make a positive impact in their lives.

It is for all of those reasons that it is exciting when new kids come around and get involved. This season at the Garage has actually seen several new kids begin coming regularly. A young man recently moved up to Ohio from Georgia in the fall and is currently experiencing his first ever Ohio winter. What a cold first winter to experience! He only lives a few short minutes walking distance from the Garage, but with his whole life being spent in the south he simply DOES NOT want to walk home. So every week he asks one of us to drive him home. While this drive is literally only one to two minutes it provides really neat one on one time to get to know him better and build trust with him. He is a young man that struggles with some mental health issues and has been given up on by people in his life. He struggles to pay attention at times, and rarely listens when we are having our lessons or discussions. However, he doesn't cause problems or distractions. While I personally like to think I give some awesome life changing lessons that no one in there right mind would want to check out of, I know what makes the big difference for these kids is seeing God's love in the relationships that are built. We have seen him over the weeks open up and show more of his personality, share his dreams and goals, and engage with more kids and leaders. He comes now to both Wednesday and Thursday nights and often messages me other random nights of the week just to make sure there isn't anything going on there. I'm so glad that we have become a place for him where he feels he can come and open up. Please pray for this young man and all of the other new kids we have that we can continue to make an impact on their lives!

Goals | Laurie Beal

This year, we have been discussing many topics and sharing tools with each of the teen parents in our Teen Parents group. We have had an emphasis on personal goals and figuring out God's plan for their life. It is common for a young person to freeze when they have such a huge shift in their plans brought on by the responsibility of an unplanned pregnancy and a new baby.

Part of our roles as mentors is to encourage them to have the courage to keep going with plans and goals. We acknowledge that, yes, things look different...but different does not mean done. We remind them that the hope and a future that Jeremiah 29:11 promises also applies to them!

To promote this idea further, we recently had a representative from the Jobs for Ohio Graduates program join our group for the evening as a guest speaker. Jamie shared about all of the MANY services that JOG provides. It was super cool to see the wheels spinning in these teens' heads as they asked question after question. They heard about tons of opportunities available FREE to them. Jamie shared about the mentoring and job coaching they offer, the tutoring and paid tests for the GED, the diploma program, the resume and interviewing skills courses, the job searching, the free certificate programs for a variety of careers and free education programs at the Medina County Career Center! They were most excited to hear about the money incentives that JOG offers for completing every one of those things listed! In addition to all of that, JOG helps with transportation or comes to the young people for the one-on-one work, and they provide things like steel-toe boots or scrubs or whatever is needed to succeed in their new career.

By the end of our meeting, we had 3 young people, who had quit school before graduating, talking with Jamie about how to start the process for their GED. Since his visit, we've had many conversations with the gals and guys about their new goals, and we have a couple of teens who have new jobs already!

We love partnering with other organizations in the community that share the common goal of giving these young people the best boost we can.

If you happen to be part of an organization or church group that could provide encouragement or help in some way, please connect so we can start the conversation!

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans for hope and a future.

Can You Help Get Her Back on the Road? | Steve Pausch

This is our mini-bus that was given to us to transport teens to and from events and meetings. This gift has been essential to our ministry, a very faithful partner in our work with kids. She unexpectedly had a few things go wrong recently, *as many of us do*. The repairs are beyond what we budgeted for and she is now out of service. We never gave her a name as some people do, but she has been good to us. We need to do some repairs to the drivetrain in the price range of \$2000 in order to get her back on the road and in service to young people for the end of school and ministry trips this summer. If you feel led to give a gift to help to get our bus back on the road and full of teens, we would be grateful.



**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**
P.O. Box 323
Wadsworth, OH 44282
330-273-5794
www.northernohioyfc.com

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

Board Members:

John Heese
Barbara Moran-
Engler
Eric Pfeiffer
Bobby Puls
Kathy Stehno