

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

August 2026

Summer Ministry is Different! | Steve Pausch

Things are a little bit different during the summer here at Youth For Christ. We like to plan activities that get young people out of their routine and get them away from the video games and screen time for a while. Recently, we hosted a summer fishing day and had a volunteer from the ODNR teach about fish habitats, knot tying, casting a rod, and how to safely remove a fish once caught. This program also provides a free fishing pole for each student who completes the learning stations. We never know what kind of a turnout we will get with a summer program, but we



partnered with a local boy scout troop and had a couple dozen young people participate. The fishing was not the greatest at the pond we chose, but a great time was had by all involved.

These type of events are an important part of our ministry since it was open to parents and family members also. We are a relational ministry. Relationships take time and it is important to have interaction time not only with teens but parents also. This event provided that. To be a good fisherman one needs to be patient, understand the fish they are attempting to catch, and know what in-

terests those fish. That sounds a lot like ministry.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus talks about becoming fishers of men....

18One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Summer is full of many meetings with young people and some extended trips. Thank you for making it possible for our staff to spend quality



extended time with the young people in our ministry areas. School will be starting soon and we will have the opportunity to begin relationships with many new young people as a result of your prayers and support. Thank you for supporting this work.



Garage Garage Sale | Matt Mountjoy

Many times people and groups ask how they can support The Garage, and right now one of the biggest ways is financially. While people sometimes enjoy just giving money, often times groups like to get out and do a work project. Both are appreciated and we have had many partners in the community support us with cool work projects. But what I want to tell you all about is a new project that a group is putting on that combines both in-person action and raising much needed finances. We are going to have a big multi-family Garage Garage Sale!

It will be hosted at The Garage in our parking lot and will take place on Friday, September 4th, and Saturday, the 5th. This also happens to be during the monthly 1st Friday events that Wadsworth puts on so if you're already going to be downtown, swing by and come check it out! We are planning on having a good sized tool section for those who are always looking for some more tools, and we will also have some quick and easy food and snacks available. All of the money raised will be going to The Garage, so if you want to help support us and also enjoy a good garage sale, save the date and come visit us!

Garage Garage Sale!

September 4th 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

September 5th 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

126 N Pardee

Rest & Relaxation | Laurie Beal

I'm settling in to bed at almost midnight of day three of a 5 night camping trip to my favorite place in the world (besides home) Presque Isle, in Erie Pennsylvania.

The campground we stay at is at the base of the 7 mile long peninsula that juts out into Lake Erie. The whole ambiance of this area is a blast from the past and feels like you are driving backward decades. So our 1985 Suburban pulling our 1971 Airstream couldn't be more at home.

My aim on this annual adventure is always rest, relaxation and recharging. The fact that this area has very poor cell service usually helps me unplug and step back from being on call 24/7.

Interestingly/unfortunately/oddly...however you want to look at it ...the cell service was working earlier for long enough to get a reminder text about this newsletter article. And honestly, I have never just started writing an article, having no idea what it was gonna be about. I guess we'll find out together. lol

As I was beginning to type this out on my phone, I was thinking about the rest and reset I just mentioned and realizing that may not have started yet?!

When we arrived, our daughter, son-in-law and two of our grandkids were here for the day. I also received a phone call about a family emergency as we were almost in Erie, and the initial plan was for me to head straight back home after we unhitched the camper and my husband would stay with the kids. I was able to help resolve the situation after a long phone call, however, so we headed to the lake. We ate a late dinner and the kids were set to head home but our Suburban would not start. Lots of turns of events after that... but, basically, the new alternator belt had fallen off. We left the car, the kids took us back to camp and they headed home.



We thanked God it didn't happen while pulling the camper and made an appointment in the morning for the car to be fixed.

We had miles of walking to do to get to the car where we had left it over night, then walking from the car repair place back to the campground after the tow truck left (sciatica pain in my leg was not a good combo for this turn of events!)

While we were out and about away from the campground that second day, handling the car stuff, it enabled me to have phone service...which it turned out was needed. Just a few of the calls: A family needed help finding addiction help and residential care for their struggling teen, a Garage mentor needed a friend to talk to about a health care concern and a local church needed help figuring out how to help an individual. The front seat of my disabled car became a home office as we waited for the tow truck. Then when we got to know the tow truck driver during our time with him, it became apparent God was working there, too. The young man needed someone to talk to. He was VERY dis-

traught over his daughter's health and welcomed prayer and conversation with my husband, after. (please join us in praying for Eliana!)

Today was a bit less hectic. I pulled all the wallpaper off in the Airstream that did not want to stick to the curves and painted walls and ceilings. Then did the spring cleaning that should have happened before we came.

As I've been typing, I turned 57. So, although I may not truly know how restful tomorrow will be ...I'm pretty certain I'll be eating cake!

I guess my article is about this. Life does not stop because you move yourself to another area for a bit. God is constantly at work in our lives and has "work" for us to do in ALL the spaces we are in. Or maybe I'll call them "opportunities."

Rest and relaxation are good and needed, too... for sure! Sometimes, I guess, God weaves all of it closely together. I'm blessed to be involved with a ministry that I'm excited to get back to!

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