

Disciples Continued

This school year is a bit different as all of our lives are different. As we stand at the beginning of another school year, some of the ways we were able to reach out to young people in the past are no longer options. Schools no longer allow visitors in the lunchrooms. Sporting events are only open for families of the athletes, and groups of teens are limited to 10 or less. We used to spend many hours watching football games, volleyball games, band concerts and other school activities as a way of showing teens and families how much we care and want to be involved. It's all different now.

We are looking into new ways to connect with teens, and we covet your prayers for all of our leaders as we spend time with young people in any way we can. These are tough times for everyone, but Jesus has still called us to, "Go and make disciples of all nations." We will do everything we can to help kids realize their need for Jesus and we are thankful for your prayers and support. Together, we can Go and Make Disciples.

That Place 4 Teens with a Different Look | Steve Pausch

Last Fall in Brunswick, we opened a new teen center across the street from where the school system was building a new middle school that would bring 3 schools into one building. We went with the old adage "location, location, location" and saw this as a perfect match for our ministry to teens. This Fall so much has changed with the lingering effects of the virus and the school system going virtual for the first 9 weeks. We envisioned many teens leaving school and dropping into the teen center for snacks, playing ping pong, pool, foosball or one of our many other activities, and hanging around eating and talking with teens and adults about their day and school. We saw countless opportunities to get to know teens and have conversations with them about life and how God fits into it.

This Fall is going to be different than we had planned. We have been having meetings with small groups of teens nearly every day of the week. Craft times, Bible studies, mentoring with less than 10 teens and with a cleaning time between meetings. Starting soon, we will be open each day for a study time where teens can come do homework, have help with things they don't understand, and have snacks and some recreation time. We are changing what our days look like in order to reach more kids with the Gospel. We will still be doing evening club meetings and other events where we talk about what a relationship with Jesus looks like. Things look different but we are excited about the new opportunities God is bringing our way even in the midst of a pandemic. Thank you for your support.

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FOR CHRIST**

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Go and Make Disciples | Steve Pausch

Scripture tells us that after the resurrection, Jesus spent time walking and talking with those on earth before he ascended into heaven. His last message to his followers was that they were to go and make disciples and teach them His ways. They did a good job of making disciples and growing the church in a few short years, but what does that look like for us today?

Matthew 28:19: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.

Acts 1:7: He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Our mission at YFC is to do exactly that: go where young people are, share the word of God and make disciples. Sounds easy. Just make disciples! But we all know that today's world has become very complicated, and the information available to teens seems to be a never-ending stream. They are inundated with ideas, philosophies, and world views that are so different than those of even a generation ago. It is not uncommon to have a great discussion with a teen one week and have them come back the next week with a completely different view of God and the principles we discussed.

The road to making a disciple is a long, winding road that takes a lot of time, discussions, text messages, and a listening ear. We are blessed with an amazing team of adult leaders who are willing to put in the time and energy to see young people walk down the road in search of a relationship with Jesus.

Continued on back

A New Venture | Laurie Beal

On August 31, our ministry site in Wadsworth, The Garage, will be starting a new ministry. On Monday and Thursdays, we will be open 11 to 3 for teens in 7th-12th grades who are doing the Wadsworth Wired, online school option.

Our teens are struggling. Anxiety, depression, isolation, suicide and overdoses are all spiking terribly, and our teens need community. So, we will be open Mondays and Thursdays, 11 to 3. It will be open house style: come when you can. Once you leave, you may not return that day (unless prior arrangements have been made). We'll be sanitizing and cleaning throughout the day and after closing. This will be a supervised, relaxed and fun coffee house atmosphere. Music, art activities, free wifi for doing school work, caring and encouraging mentors, weights, punching bag, green machines, scooters, skateboards, skate ramps, helmets, free tutoring help, retro arcade games, individual study spaces within large group space, free food and drinks.



Masks will be required and we will be limiting the numbers in each area to 10, which includes an adult mentor. Our mentors will be a few of our Garage mentors and others from area churches that are partnering with us..

This is a new way to engage teens during this school year. Please pray for us and for the teens. Our deepest prayer is that God would use these efforts to draw teens to Himself. I can't wait to share some café stories in our next newsletter!

Sharing Christ at the Sandusky County Detention Center | Steve Pausch

As we've said for months, COVID 19 has greatly impacted how we do ministry. Our ministry at the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center is no different. During March and April, there were not many young men in the detention center and Herb Miller's (our director for ministry at the detention center) time with the young men was by Zoom only. However, since the end of May, the population has increased and Herb has been able to meet in person with the young men. He's been using various movies with Christian themes as an opening with the young men. Viewing the movie together and discussing it afterward, has opened up great conversations. Sharing the experience of viewing together gives them a common place to start from. He has shared his life with these young men, sharing his past and how Christ has saved him. He uses whatever time God gives him with each young man to challenge them to consider their lives and to consider Christ. Please join us in praying for Herb and his time with these young men. May God use these opportunities to draw each one to Himself.

Starting Up Like Never Before | Matt Mountjoy

It's that time of year again. School is kicking back off and so are we with our school year programming. Obviously this is not business as usual. Like the school systems, we have had the summer to consider how we can effectively operate and work with kids while providing a safe and clean environment. We have also had to look at how we can adapt with the times for new opportunities to reach kids and be a support to our community. Obviously, the big new change is the Garage Café for teens being headed up by Laurie. It's been exciting to be a part of seeing new people gain interest in this venture and talk with more people in the community on how they can get involved. The other main programming kicking off is our good old Thursday night Garage program. While this is certainly not new, we have been working to find ways to operate it in smaller more manageable groups to keep distanced. Please be praying for all this change as we look to enact it effectively!

There is a second thing that I have noticed that is different about this kick-off (outside of the difficulties of creating regulated safe programs) and that is the kids' attitudes. Normally, at the end of the summer there is some level of excitement from the kids to get back to our regular programming and things the students are familiar with. However, if there is one thing I have learned from the teens over this summer is that they REALLY don't like being cooped up! This has probably been the most vocal I have seen since beginning in the ministry here that the students have been with their excitement to start back up the regular programming. Praise God! What an opportunity we have to be able to create something special with a group of students that are truly looking forward to have to opportunity to be involved with the ministry!