

PHYOUTH STUDENT MINISTRY MANUAL



2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

PHYOUTH STUDENT MINISTRY MANUAL

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Welcome to PHYouth, a ministry for students from 6th to 12th Grade at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. We are committed to helping both your student and your family grow closer to Christ. This ministry, like all ministries of its type, requires a partnership with the family to succeed. You will also find this approach is Biblically based. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 goes into detail about how we, the Church, are responsible to teach and equip both the family, as well as the student. We want to equip both you and your student to do the work of Christ, as well as grow deeper in your faith!

This handbook was written with you, the parents, and the students in mind. Please take some time and go over all of it so that you can have a better grasp of what it is that we are about, any changes that we will be making this year to PHYouth, our calendar, and any forms that we may need filled out for participation in the PHYouth Ministry.

I truly look forward to the opportunity and privilege to do ministry and the work of Christ with your students! This year is going to be awesome, and I cannot wait to get started!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Zack at any time, in any of the ways listed below

Blessings,

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Our Student Ministry exists to assist and equip parents in the process of developing their 6th-12th grade students towards maturity in their faith as well as to reach out to students with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus, help them grow in their knowledge of Christ, and nurture a burning desire to reach out to others in love with that knowledge.

“He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God’s Son. God’s goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren’t supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let’s grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part”

- Ephesians 4:11-16

MATURITY DEFINED

We believe that maturity in Christ is not a destination, but rather it is a journey. Students who are exposed to Jesus should have a:

- ★ Growing love for God
- ★ Growing love for God’s Word
- ★ Growing desire to pray
- ★ Growing sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- ★ Growing love for all people
- ★ Growing sense of who they are and where they fit in the Body of Christ as well as God’s purpose for their lives

When the students graduate from this ministry, it is our desire that every student:

- ★ Know what they believe
- ★ Know why they believe it
- ★ Live it out

Success for us means that our students are living out the teachings of Jesus and consistently challenging yourself and growing in their relationship with God. This is a lifelong “game” and sometimes, the “win” isn’t seen immediately. But it is our hope and prayer that the students move on down the path towards spiritual maturity and that we can push them down that path while they are in PHYOUTH with us each week.

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CORE VALUES

The 5 M's of Student Ministry:

1. Allow the students to do **MINISTRY**. Every student, regardless of where they are in their walk with Christ, has something they can contribute to the Church.
2. Expose students to quality **MENTORS**. Every student needs to have the influence of Godly adults who can effectively model what it means to walk with Christ.
3. Provide opportunities to make **MEMORIES**. Church should be something that everyone looks forward to, not something that they just do. It should be fun, exciting, and a joy!
4. Partner with **MOM and DAD**. Parents are a constant influence in the lives of students and we will make intentional efforts to work together to develop young men and women who love Jesus and walk with him daily.
5. Create space for God **MOMENTS**. God can do what we can't. We must create an environment and create opportunities for God to move in the lives of the students

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ALLOW STUDENTS TO DO MINISTRY:

Again, we believe every student has something to offer. This year, we will bring back our student leadership team. We will not assign “positions” or have students “run for office” this go round however. This time we will allow all students who wish to have some say into what it is that we are doing as a ministry to participate. These leaders will help plan events such as mission opportunities, Youth Sundays, and day trips we take as a group. These leadership meetings will happen once a month on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:00-6:30.

We also want to students to reach out to our local community. Over this summer, we have begun a relationship with HOPE of Lancaster and will be serving those in need there on a regular basis. We will also find new and creative ways to serve those who are in the most need.

We are also looking for ways to make PHYouth students more visible to the entirety of Pleasant Hill, so we will be looking for opportunities to get students involved regularly. We will have students take on roles in Sunday Services (read Scriptures, do the pastoral prayer, children’s sermon, being greeters/ushers, communion servers, etc.).

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PROVIDE ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORS

Every student needs the influence of Christian adults who actively live out and model their faith in Christ. Our strategy to make this happen effectively is two-fold:

1. Student Ministry Counselors
 - a. PHYouth is blessed to have a very solid, loving, and fun group of adult leaders. These leaders look for ways to invest time and energy into the students at church every week and outside of the church with the student's extracurricular activities.
 - b. Our PHYouth Sunday Meetings will be structured where our adult leaders will take on a lot of our teaching/mentoring responsibilities in our Sunday sessions. We will start our session together, then break off into groups based on age or gender (depending on the topic of the day) and the counselors will lead the discussion with the students. This will give them multiple Jesus loving adults to pour into them each week and allow them to develop relationships with these leaders that will pay dividends as they further their walk with Christ.

2. Discipleship Group Mentors
 - a. DGMs will be adults in the church who are not actively involved with PHYouth but would like to commit to mentoring a student.
 - b. DGMs will be assigned a cluster of students and will commit to praying for them daily, coming to youth twice a month to help mentor them in their faith, and seek to show these students what discipleship in Christ looks like in a day to day basis
 - c. DGMs will take note of significant events in a student's life (birthday, graduation, sporting events, accomplishments, etc.) and reach out to them before, during, and/or after each of these events.
 - d. DGMs will be encouraged to develop an ongoing relationship with their assigned student and his/her family
 - e. The main goal of a DGM is to simply fulfil what we promise when we take our congregational vows to the baptismal covenant:
 - i. "with God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life"

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PARTNER WITH MOM AND DAD

Parents are a constant influence in the life of a student and we should work together to develop Godly men and women.

We believe that parents should be responsible for the spiritual growth and maturity of their children. Our role is to partner with them as they work to move their student from adolescence towards being a mature man or woman of God.

I taught math for 5 years prior to taking this job at Pleasant Hill. I enjoy numbers, so I'm going to use some numbers to make this point. If each student came to every PHYouth Sunday meeting from their 6th grade year through their 12th grade year, we here would only have them for a grand total of around 216 hours, or 9 full 24 hour days over a 7 year period. Contrast that with school (394 full 24 hour days) and you'll see we have but a very small and limited amount of time with the students here at PHYouth.

- We will provide two meetings per year, one in September and one in January. At these meetings we will discuss what we have coming up in the next semester and talk about our vision for the future. All information from each meeting will be placed on our church website on the Youth Ministry section
- We will provide a monthly parent newsletter to provide an overview of our teaching in upcoming month and provide parents with discussion questions, family Bible reading plans, and ways to engage the students in what we have been discussing.
- We will provide several activities throughout the year designed to bring parents and students together in order to strengthen their relationships.

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CREATE SPACE FOR GOD MOMENTS

We believe that students can experience God in a variety of ways. With that in mind, we want to provide several ways throughout the year, where they can experience the power and presence of God in a life-changing way.

Through worship

Worship isn't just singing songs. Worship is showing reverence and honor to God. We will at times experience this in different ways; prayer experiences, singing praise, talking about what God has done in our lives, etc.

Through prayer

In addition to prayer within our services, we will provide several opportunities throughout the year for corporate prayer within our group. We also strongly encourage students to spend time each day in prayer with God, and we have a variety of materials that we can/will give to students that will help them establish a rhythm to their prayer life.

Through Service

Several times throughout the year, we will provide students with missions and service opportunities. These will range from local mission trips to local Saturday service projects to the Back To School Bash.

Through the Word of God

There are five questions a teenager must find answers to, in order to develop towards maturity in Christ. With that in mind, everything we teach during our Wednesday night Bible Studies will attempt answer one of the following questions -

1. Who is God?
2. Who Am I?
3. How can I know God?
4. How should I relate to others?
5. How can I change the world?

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Provide Opportunities to Create Memories

Church should be something people look forward to. It should be fun, exciting, and a privilege rather than something students are forced to go to because their parents tell them to.

1. We will create opportunities throughout the year for fellowship and fun among our students that include:
 - a. Messy game night
 - b. The Annual PHYouth Spring Olympiad
2. We will participate in a camp at the beginning each summer, a beach retreat at the conclusion of the summer, a Fall Retreat in November, and a Spring Retreat in March. These are designed to get students out of their standard, routine based lives and get them to truly enjoy time with each other and also with God.
3. PHYouth session on Sundays will be formatted in a new way this year as well. We will spend the first part of each session (30 minutes on average) in a group game (different each week) and a time for a “snack supper” that encourages students to hangout, talk, and just be together in a fun and chilled environment.

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PHYOUTH DAYS AND TIMES

These meetings are our regular, standard events on a weekly basis where community is developed and Jesus is pursued

Sunday School: 10:00–11:45 on Sundays

PHYouth: 5:00–7:00 on Sundays

Breakfast Devos: 7:15–7:45 on Thursdays on School Days

PHYOUTH SPECIAL EVENTS

These are the rest of the core events of our student ministry. Please make sure to check out the calendar for dates as they are subject to change year to year.

Fall Retreat: This is a yearly opportunity for the youth group to get away from the “real world” for a couple of days and focus on Christ. We go to a retreat like Tsunami or LookUp Lodge. Lots of fun and a great time for being stretched and grow in Jesus.

Salkehatchie Thanksgiving Meal Delivery: Every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we prepare boxes of food and take them to the people served from the Catawba Salkahatchie that year. We also eat a family Thanksgiving meal in the Fellowship Hall before we go out and deliver the food to these families

Christmas Party: Every year, the Sunday before Christmas, we hold a Youth Christmas party. We everyone brings a shareable food item, a present, and we have fun. We eat together, play games for prizes together, do a gift exchange (the method of how we exchange gifts varies from year to year), and hang out together.

Spring Retreat: This is a new one for us. It is similar to the Fall Retreat in concept, except this one will be run by us. The PHYouth adults will run and teach during the Spring Retreat. Location to be determined each year, but it will be at either Asbury Hill, Camp Tekoa, or LookUp Lodge.

Graduation Sunday/End Of The Year Party: This is the day where we honor/recognize our students who will be leaving us in the fall to pursue their lives after high school. We play games, grill out, and have a bonfire at Zack’s house (weather permitting). We also give our graduates small gifts, and get their hand prints to hang up in the youth room so all that enter the youth room will see their mark on us and our ministry here.

LookUp Lodge: Our Summer Retreat. The students are challenged and stretched in their beliefs on God, and have an absolute blast in the process. We play group games, have a lot of free time for the lake, sports tournaments, hikes, relaxing, etc. But more importantly, we have a great time learning about Christ as individuals and as a group.

Salkehatchie: We give our students the opportunity to go serve at one of two Salkehatchie sites: North Strand or Columbia. They spend the week serving God and those in need in our state. It’s hot and hard work, but it’s an incredible experience for all parties involved.

Beach Trip: We go to Chris Burgess’ beach house in North Myrtle Beach and spend 3-4 days at the beach. We have a lot of beach time during the day, and spend the evenings doing “non-typical” worship sessions. This is a fun way for PHYouth to close out our summer activities!

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PHYOUTH CURRICULUM 2019-20

Sunday PHYouth Sessions

We are looking to do PHYouth differently this year. We will break youth into 4-30-minute sections. This new layout and design came from something that Greg Boone said this summer at LookUp Lodge: “creatures reproduce in kind” meaning that if we are producing students who just show up for youth because their parents bring them we will have zero chance to produce actual disciples of Christ with that. So, we are going to focus intentionally on discipleship this year. Our new layout will be as follows:

5:00-5:30 – Snack Supper

- We will be starting a “snack supper” each week at youth. We will be asking parents to supply these “meals”. If everyone signs up to provide a meal for the students, each family will be asked to serve just once a semester at the most. We are looking for food items such as pizza, spaghetti, chips, or something similarly easy from the parents. The Youth will provide drinks and paper products. This time will be used to get everyone together in a laid-back fun atmosphere and providing a basic need for the students with our new Youth time slots.

5:30-5:50 – Intro/Game/Icebreaker

- The official start to “youth”. We start youth each week with a game, video, or activity of some sort. These will take place during this time. These games are just that; games. They exist to let the students have fun together, there isn’t a lot of spiritual things to be found in these games, it’s just for fun.

5:50-6:30 – PHYouth Session

- The PHYouth Session is where Zack or one of the youth leaders will present the lesson for the week. The lessons this year will be geared towards discipleship and growth in our faith in Christ.

6:30-7:00 – Discipleship Groups

- This time will be shared on a biweekly basis. Every other week this time will be lead by one of our youth counselors and the other weeks it will be lead by the DGMs we described earlier. The purpose of this time is to really have adults pour into our students and invest in their walk with Christ.

Wednesday PHYouth Sessions

There isn’t an actual curriculum for what Wednesday night sessions will be. What we will be doing on Wednesday evenings is a literal Bible Study. We cannot proclaim we have faith in something that we cannot articulate or understand. So we will spend an hour each Wednesday in the Bible, going through a book of the Bible a chapter or two at a time and discussing what we have read and how it can be applied to us in our lives, what it says about God, and what sort of instructions we are being given.

This is a small group that we openly encourage any of the parents of our students to attend as well, as we can all learn a bit more about the Word of God. Also, it’s a great time for adults and students to learn together and from each other.

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COMMUNICATION PLAN

We will communicate the goings on of PHYouth in a variety of ways:

- ★ “Weekly Happenings” emails
 - These will be sent out on Tuesday of each week.
 - These emails will have information about things coming up in the immediate future, usually the next week of youth events. We will also have an “on the horizon” item each week to make sure nothing coming up catches you off guard
- ★ Church Newsletter
- ★ Texts
 - These will be sent out as reminders of events and signups. Usually it’s something as simple as reminding students of an event that’s coming the next day or so.
- ★ Church Website
- ★ PHYouth Facebook Page
- ★ Sunday Bulletin Announcements

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Our general guidelines at PHYouth are common sense. If we realize that each student is a child of God regardless of circumstances we will usually have nothing to worry about. But nonetheless, some basic guidelines are necessary:

- ★ **Phone Box** – we ask students to put their phones into our lovely “Phone Box” created by Missi at the beginning of each of our sessions. This is to allow students to truly invest their time and mind to Christ, not the world around us. It’s also just to ensure students are being respectful to the people taking their time teaching the lessons.
- ★ **PDA** – Students are going to date. It’s a fact, but there are appropriate displays of public affection towards each other. Students should respect healthy boundaries when in relationships. We allow students to hold hands, and to place their arm around each other appropriately. Anything beyond this is inappropriate for what we do during PHYouth events.
- ★ **Facilities** – We will have snacks on a weekly basis this year. Having said that, students are expected to throw their trash away and leave the youth room, bus, or wherever we are in the condition in which it was found or better
- ★ **Respect** – Students need to make sure to show love and a healthy respect for everyone involved in PHYouth. Some students handle issues differently, but are also expected to strive for kindness and love towards the students and adults present at all PHYouth events

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YOUTH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

We want you to be able to get in touch with us whenever you need us. Here is the basic contact information for each of our Youth Counselors. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions about anything we are doing, will be doing, or have done.

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