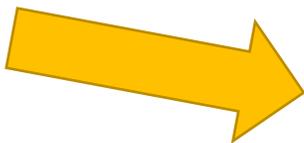




SO MUCH MORE

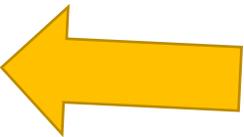
Welcome to Georgetown Youth Group 2016-2017!
We have a ton of cool stuff in store for you this year!



Join us for our first event, Messy Olympics on Sunday, September 11 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Church
Meet your leaders and get crazy!
WEAR OLD CLOTHES (and maybe bring a towel)
Dinner will be served



Looking ahead, this year we are going to be talking about why Christianity is about so much more than going to heaven when we die. It's about being part of God's bigger story. Author and YouTuber Jefferson Bethke will share his thoughts and get us thinking about the Gospel this year.



Check out the attached schedule and put the dates on your calendar!
Also, check out the parent letter with some thoughts on changes for this year.

2016-2017 YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE – SO MUCH MORE

Date	Time	What	Where	Notes
Sunday, Sept. 11	5:30-7:30	Kick-off, Messy Olympics	Church	Pizza, name games, messiness
Sunday, Sept. 18	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Theme intro	Church	Intro game, theme intro, small groups, Dodgeball or Tie-Dye
Sunday, Sept. 25	6:30-8:00	off		
Sunday, Oct. 2	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 1	Church	Dinner served
Friday, Oct. 7	10pm - Midnight	Feed My Starving Children Youth Event	Hudsonville Reformed	Pizza served
Sunday, Oct. 16	6:30-8:00	Youth Group*	LEADERS	Games, Share and Prayer, Snack
Sunday, Oct. 23		Off – Fall break		
Sunday, Oct. 30	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 2	Church	TBD, video, Small groups
Sunday, Nov. 6	6:30-8:00	Youth Group	Church	Dinner, Worship, TBD
Sunday, Nov. 13	6:30-8:00	Youth Group*	LEADERS	Games, Share and Prayer, Snack
Sunday, Nov. 20	5:30-7:00	Joint worship	Summit	Dinner, Singing, Game, mixed groups – W/ congregation
Sunday, Nov. 27		Off - Thanksgiving break		
Sunday, Dec. 4	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 3	Church	TBD, Video, Small Groups
Sunday, Dec. 11		Off - Children's Christmas program		
Sunday, Dec. 18		Small Group Christmas Parties		
Sunday, Jan. 1		Off – Christmas break		
Sunday, Jan. 8		Off – Christmas break		
Sunday, Jan. 15	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 4		Dinner, TBD, Video, Small Group
Sunday, Jan. 22	(6:30-8:00)	Service effort		TBD
Sunday, Jan. 29	6:30-8:00	Youth Group*	LEADERS	Games, Share and Prayer, Snack
Friday, Feb. 3 to Sunday Feb. 5		Winter Retreat	Spring Hill	
Sunday, Feb. 12	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 5		Games, TBD, Video, Small Groups
Sunday, Feb. 19	(6:30-8:00)	Special outing – GVSU		TBD
Weekend of Feb. 26		Off – Winter Break		
Sunday, March 5	6:30-8:00	Youth Group – Lesson 6		Dinner, TBD, Video, Small group
Sunday, March 12	6:30-8:00	Youth Group*	LEADERS	Games, Share and Prayer, Snack
Sunday, March 19	(6:30-8:00)	Serve effort		TBD
Sunday, March 26	6:30-8:00	Youth Group		TBD
Weekend of April 2		Off – Spring Break		
Weekend of April 9		Off – Spring Break		
Sunday, April 16	6:30-8:00	Youth Group		TBD

The weeks marked with a * will be at a place of the leaders choosing. Most of these nights will feature prayer and share time or may feature a special event or outing.

Dear Parents of High School Students,

This summer has been an interesting one in the life of Student Ministries at Georgetown. I would like to share with you two main points of interest that are helping to shape and energize our ministry with young people.

First, Renewal Lab has been a major blessing as we think about our goals and purposes in all areas of church life, including Student Ministries. The team has done a lot of thinking and sorting and we've centered around the following vision statement and values.

Rooted in God's grace, Georgetown Church is committed to making followers of Jesus Christ, who love God, love each other and serve the world

Values:

- *Welcoming, embracing, and caring for everyone*
- *Nurturing full devotion to Christ*
- *Experiencing God's renewing presence through worship and prayer*
- *Inviting our neighbors to know and love Jesus*
- *Serving in and with our community*
- *Supporting our ministry through prayer*

As we consider our strategies and programs in Student Ministries, we are committed to embracing these values and aligning what we do to pursue these ends. While the style of ministry may be a bit unique when working with young people, our commitment to making followers of Jesus Christ will not waiver.

Second, after much personal reflection, parent input, focus team discussion, Listening Lab feedback, and volunteer leader input I am reminded about the diversity of needs, learning styles, and personalities of our young people. Some students are ready to dive into worship and deep discussion while others are more ready to play games and joke around with leaders. Some students are craving a connection with new people and are seeking new places of acceptance while others are more interested in being with their trusted friends.

Any one youth ministry strategy may not connect with all students. Our ministry must be one that can engage and connect with students in many different ways and our programming and schedule must reflect that diversity. Therefore, this year you will see a wider variety of events than in years past. For example, you will see more simple, local service efforts and more time for intimate small group engagement. While we will still have times of worship and guest speakers, those aspects will no longer be the preeminent focus. We are building in more time for personal connection and attention for each student. Perhaps most exciting, you will see no parent dinners! To help us focus on relationships and discipleship and less on busyness, we are phasing out all but 4 dinners (Leaders will handle those). We are also moving the time of Youth Group back one hour, to 6:30pm (we will conclude at 8:00pm). As an added bonus, this will allow the option for students to be present for evening worship each night.

We are committed to putting relationships first. Relationships are the engine that moves discipleship and spiritual growth forward. We are considering all the ways in which we can strengthen existing relationships with young people and help forge new connections in all areas of church life.

Finally, no one has more influence on your child than you do (hard to believe sometimes, I know). The attitudes you have toward church and the life of faith carry weight. Please make space in your life for your kids to be a part of the church and student ministries. [Encourage them to come.](#)

Thank you,

Eric DeYoung
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