

## Outline for 2009 Parents' Meeting

1. Welcome and prayer
2. Welcome to new youth parents
  - a. Open floor for old youth parents to encourage new parents
3. Changes in venue for this year
  - a. Why? We were at max capacity when everyone was there. We lost 1 and have 10 or so coming up. We had to move.
  - b. Sunday nights, for youth worship, will be held in the gym. This gives us more room, allows us to incorporate games from time to time, and allows us to be viewed and accessed by more people from the church. Youth runs from 5:30 until 7. Students are encouraged to arrive between 5 and 5:15 and take advantage of the game room and snack bar that will soon be in place and operable.
  - c. Wednesday nights, beginning August 19, will be upstairs in the youth chapel. With the band equipment gone, we will have more room for everyone to gather there for this. 6-6:30 will be time for drama practice and homework help. Students are encouraged to bring their homework and ask for help from older students when they can. Then at 6:30, they will be asked to put that away and we will begin Bible study. Bibles are a must for a Bible study-bring them! We conclude at 7:30, just like everyone else.
  - d. Sunday School will be combined. They will continue to meet upstairs in the education building. This allows us to be safe sanctuary compliant with only one teacher and an open door in an accessible area. The youth chapel and gym classroom we used to use allowed for neither. We will have structured curriculum and a rotation of teachers. Ages are combined due to the poor attendance that we have with Sunday School. If a need arises to break us out, we will cross that bridge then.
  - e. Band practice will be on Sunday nights from 4:30 until 5:15.
  - f. One night each month, we will seek to present an SNL event for the youth. On these nights, we will shorten the worship and Word portion of our evening and be prepared to depart from the church at 6:30 to attend the SNL.
4. Ministry Teams
  - a. Drama...if you are interested in helping Sarah lead this group, you will meet with us on Wednesday nights at 6. We will be doing human videos, sign language, skits, and dance.
  - b. Worship music...practice will be on Sundays from 4:30-5:15. We will occasionally need people to fill in and lead worship in the absence of our youth. Can you fill in for us then?
  - c. Sunday Night youth leader...be present on Sunday nights and hang out with the kids. You will opportunities to pray with kids going through a rough time, help them answer an altar call where God is speaking to them and they need a guide, police the worship area for those not paying attention and especially using cell phones, help with games, help with tech issues as they arise, and help set up or take down each week.

- d. Wednesday night leaders...attend Bible study each week beginning at 6:00. Classes for your other children will be provided. You'll be asked to participate in the Bible study, which will be done in a round robin discussion type format. You'll also be asked to help ensure that kids are doing homework and not distracting others.
  - e. SNL...once a month, we will ask families to provide a fellowship event for the youth. This can be your home opened up for a snack supper and movie, or a pool party, bon fire, or game night. Other ideas have been to rent out the bowling alley, skating rink, or laser tag for the group for the night. Families can join together to help with cost and to provide a large enough venue. These can be done in conjunction as a boys' night/girls' night out event where we split up. A cool idea would be a scavenger hunt or a volleyball tourney vs. the parents. No limits here.
  - f. Trip chaperones...Our trips require adult participation. For every 5-7 youth on a particular gender, we need one adult to go along. Adult trips are paid for, except any deposit that is required. You are always welcome to pay your own way if you choose, but never required. Our major trips include ski trip, mission trip, weekends at Lakeshore, youth camp outs, and concerts. We don't do a ton of these, but we do as much as we can. Without proper adult chaperone participation, we will not go on a trip. We simply cannot be that lax with the safety of your children. So, before we place a deposit to hold a trip for our youth, we will seek chaperones first.
  - g. Art Board...Are you creative? I want to launch a blog that will enable you to help me illustrate the Word of God for our youth. I know that people learn in multi sensory ways much better than simply hearing someone drone on and on. I want to illustrate the topic I am teaching with video clips, art, decorations that hang in the worship area, take aways, etc. I want the youth to have a worship experience rather than a worship event. So, if you choose to serve here, you'll be responsible for looking at the blog each week and posting any ideas you have for the lessons that are coming up. Then, I may occasionally ask you to help fabricate the items we have decided on. I need your creative juices.
5. Parental Involvement. You are so key to your child having a life changing experience in youth. Be involved. Your son/daughter will not want you to be there. You are an embarrassment to them. But, they need you there. As parents, it is not about what our kids want, or at least it shouldn't be. It should be about what is best for them. You being involved in their youth ministry is what is best for them. Serve in an area. Ask them what they are learning. Bring your concerns to me. Be involved!
6. Child Involvement. They can only grow in God when they are exposed to God. There is nothing I can do to help them discover their walk of faith if they are at the ball park, at home, or anywhere else besides here at church. Sports, band, cheerleading...all these things are important. But, they ask for so much of your time. God has been relegated to Sunday nights and Wednesday nights for these youth. Help them make the right choice and help them learn to prioritize their time with God. If we can't carve out 5 hours out of 168 hours a week for God, what is that saying about our love for Him? Get them here and let God do the rest. He will reach them.

7. Communication. Everything about what is going on in youth ministry will be presented to you in several forms. It will be in the Chimes article I produce each week. Long range info will be featured in the Chimes monthly insert, usually on the second week of the month. Trip info and forms that you need to fill out will be listed on the church website at [www.fumcuc.org/youth](http://www.fumcuc.org/youth) under the heading of trips and info. Signups and ongoing info will be posted on our Facebook page. You cannot go on a trip unless you RSVP via the Facebook site. This enables me to have a good record and keeps from wasting so many spots on trips that people back out on. And any last minute reminders and important info will be sent via text. As always, I am an open door to you all. You can reach me about anything in one of these ways:

Email: [youth@fumcuc.org](mailto:youth@fumcuc.org)

Cell: 731.446.4189 Sarah: 731.446.4194 Home: 731.599.9476 Office: 731.885.3573

Stop by the house at 722 E. Florida or the office, Mon.-Thurs.

8. Rules for parents. I or the actual youth leaders will handle setting and enforcing the rules for each trip. If you have not been asked to do so, this is not your place. My rules may be more lax than yours or more than likely will be stricter, but when your child is in my care, they are my rules to impose. I will not allow anything to go on that will harm or lead your child astray. This is an issue of authority that they youth need to have in place in order to know how to act and what is expected. Other than that, simply love all the youth, even the ones that are mean to your child, like they are your own when you are working with us.
9. Cell phones. There is an increasing problem with this. So this year, we will hang a shoe tree up in the worship area, the Bible study area, and the Sunday School room. When your child enters these areas, they are to place their cell phone in a sleeve, turned to vibrate, and left until service is over. If they refuse to do this, they will have their phone taken up and it will be available to sell back to them after church for \$100. Guys, I am serious about no cell phones. To the point I am willing to risk my job here over this issue. We have lost all respect for God when we feel like we have to text and make calls while His word is being spoken taught, or His name is being worshipped. It makes me sick. And so often, my best efforts have been undermined by parents. I have no tolerance any more for this. If you can't abide by this, find somewhere else to go to youth.
10. Questions
11. Prayers by parents to close us out.