

FMC Youth Ministries Report –November 13, 2021

The last year had many challenges with trying to offer gatherings for our youth due to COVID restrictions. Local congregations have had some connections and we offered some online meetings beginning April 4th and May 4th we called “Cooking with Covid” with demonstrations by some of the youth about their favorite snacks. However, participation waned, and we decided to end those sessions. Our youth have greatly missed being together at Deerhaven.

YOUTH MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Our Youth Council has met regularly with Laura Moose, leading it as the Chair. She does a great job, and we have a great group who have the best interest of our young people at heart. Most of them came up in the camping program and have been invested for years. We have met regularly and discussed online options for activities we can provide for our young people to stay connected. At various times throughout the year, we were hopeful that our COVID numbers would be low enough for a gathering but that never proved to be possible. We all have tried to maintain connections via various platforms.

Certified Youth Worker Training

We are now offering via Zoom the Certified Youth Worker Core Training. World Church recommends all Youth Workers have refresher courses annually and of course, all Priesthood must be certified and anyone who is involved in any way with our youth needs to be certified. The class is one part, and the background check is the second part and that only needs to be redone every five years. Once all that is accomplished the record is noted in Shelby. All this should be completed prior to anyone attending any camps or activities involving youth. Each Pastoral Team should be aware of who is certified in their congregations.

There is a second course provided by World Church that is for congregational leaders. This course builds on the Core Training and gives guidance on how to handle any reports of abuse should they be presented.

Any congregation or adult in need of this training please contact Serena Tankersley at 404-452-5619 or sktankersley55@gmail.com.

Additionally, most likely in May we will still hold our Camp Staff Training Workshop online as we prepare to return to a full camping program in 2022. There

will be COVID protocols to consider for in person camps that will need to be implemented. This training is suggested for all who will be helping at the camp.

JUNIOR CAMP - June 21st thru June 25th – our fabulous Junior Camp Leaders, Betsy Stormer, Jeannie Brown and Janice Lotz brought together another great camp via Zoom. We had another great response with our Junior Campers who seemed to really enjoy the connection and having a camp experience from home.

We didn't have as many campers this year as last but still the participation was great, and the campers experienced a lot of fun learning about Jesus and campfire songs and even making up lyrics as we went along. Once again, we had two fabulous CITs in Erica Chaser and Melody Ripper who led wonderful and fun campfire activities. Finally, Stacie Thompson was able to capture screen shots and put together a camp log and sent that out to everyone. We had a lot of fun activities with materials Betsy had sent out for crafts that everyone participated in as well. Overall, it was a positive camp experience even if we couldn't meet in person.

Upcoming Retreats -

Senior High and Young Adult Retreat – *New Beginnings* \$100 December 31, 2021 – January 2, 2022, Did you miss Senior High Camp in 2020 and 2021? You are invited to this special retreat!! (10th grade thru 2nd year in college) Any questions please contact directors: Melissa Nations 352-602- 1250 or Lorna Owens 727-743-4102 New Year's Eve Party Friday Night! Bring your talent for the Talent Show Saturday night!!! Register Online Now: www.cofchristfmc.org

Junior High Retreat *Get S'more Jesus* \$100 January 28-January 30, 2022, Get ready to have a good time with friends at Deerhaven!! (Grades 7-9) Any questions please contact directors: Lorna Owens 727-743-4102 or Melissa Nations 352-602-1250 Bring your talent for the Talent Show and dance following. Register online now: www.cofchristfmc.org

Junior Camp

for kids entering 3rd - 6th grades

June 19-23, 2022
Deerhaven Retreat & Conference Center
49274 NFS 540-2
Paisley, FL 32767

Camp Directors
[Betsy Stormer](#), (321) 848-3244

Registrar
[Serena Tankersley](#), (404) 452-5619

COST: TBA

Junior High Camp

for kids entering 7th - 9th grades

June 26-July 2, 2022
Deerhaven Retreat & Conference Center
47924 NFS 540-2
Paisley, FL 32767

Camp Director
[Laura Moose](#), (352) 217-8882

Registrar
[Charlie Brown](#), (321) 258-0434

COST: TBD

Senior High Camp

for youth entering 10th grade through recent grads

July 10-16, 2022
Deerhaven Retreat & Conference Center
47924 NFS 540-2
Paisley, FL 32767

Camp Directors
Carol Harrison (231) 631-3706
[Melissa Nations](#), (352) 602-1250

Registrar
TBD

COST: TBD

Spectacular

July 22-30, 2022

Graceland University

Lamoni, Iowa

Florida Coordinator

Jane Sisley, (407) 670-9754

Other Opportunities for Youth Connections

We are prepared with teachers and staff if there is any interest in either a church school class (a/k/a Sunday School) or chat sessions or scavenger hunts or other outings for the youth. Our local youth leaders are offering activities for their youth in their congregations. Please contact me should you or your child be interested in a program and are not sure who to contact or you would like to be involved with the youth locally in your own congregations.

Other Potential Camping Program Development Ideas:

We have a group who are interested in adding spring retreats for two other categories. College and career ages 18-25 who have graduated high school but want to continue being a “camper”.

The next age group are Young Adults in the 25-35 age group who have their careers going and possibly families who would like to continue having a camping experience and a way to introduce their children to Camp Deerhaven. If we can bring back those who loved our camp as youth it is our hope that we can further develop and grow our Youth Camping Program which is the biggest part of the Florida Youth Ministry. If you are interested in either of these retreats, please contact either Serena Tankersley at (404) 452-5619, Charlie Brown at (321) 258-0434 or Lorna Owens at (727) 743-4102

We are looking forward to a great year!