

Happy October Youth Ministry Family,

As we turn the page on our calendar and find ourselves in October (where did September go?), we know many of us are anticipating enjoying the cooler weather, the brilliance of the leaves changing color, and the return of our favorite 'pumpkin spice' flavors. We are in the throes of football, homecomings, and excitement over Fall Break approaching. And in the middle of it all, Kevin and I are busy planning so many good and beautiful things for you to experience in our Youth Ministry. Our hope is that you will join us as we all grow in our likeness of Jesus, renew our commitment to love God and love neighbor, and collectively, reveal the Kingdom of Heaven right here, right now.

Celebrations from September:

- We held our first EVER class dinners! Thank you to all of our hosts who opened their homes to our church babies. From 6th – 12th grades, each class had a chance to reconnect with their 'age' friends from church. We had over 75 church babies come together to share dinner, devotions, games, and connection. It was AWESOME! Our next class dinner will be January 25th, 2026. Would you like to host one of our classes? Please reach out to Shelley Holden (shelleysholden@gmail.com) to sign up!
- We had our first EVER Niner-Niner at TOP Golf! We had a truly fantastic time hanging out with all our freshman. We are looking forward to our next one December 13th at IFly in Charlotte. Are you a freshman? Mark your calendars now...space is limited...and, yes, friends are welcome to come along too. You'll need to register and fill out all the liability forms in order to attend.
- Love Thy Neighbor has resumed and is filled to capacity with neighbors who just need a good meal, medical care, to be seen, heard, known, delighted in, and loved. We hope you will join us this coming Sunday, October 5th for our next LTN.
- Kevin and I launched our brand-new podcast, "Across the Table with Tammy & Kevin". You can listen to it anywhere you get your podcasts.

Next, we want to share with you a "forecast" of what is coming up in Youth Ministry this month so that you can mark your calendar and plan to be with us as often as possible:

Here are some highlights:

- We are inviting parents to read with us, part 2! Youth Ministry and Shining Light on Mental Health have partnered to read four important books to help us better understand our teenagers. The first book in the series is "The Five Love Languages of Teenagers" by Gary Chapman. Pick up a copy wherever you like to buy your books, read it as your leisure, and then join us on November 2nd at 10:00am in the Senior High room for coffee and conversation around the book.

- Join us on Wednesday evening from 5:15pm-6:00pm for our church dinner at Nourish. You can register for meals here. Youth are welcome on upstairs to the middle school room for our Bible study, “Together, Community that Marked the Acts 2 Church”. All youth are welcome!
- This month we are continuing our Sunday school study on the Gospel of Mark. Come be with us at 10:00am in the Youth Commons as we sit around the tables, to explore Mark's perspective on the life of Jesus. As always, there will be plenty of coffee and breakfast treats to be had!
- Speaking of Sunday school...we have a ton of options for parents. Check out what's available to you here so that you can grow in your faith as well.
- On October 5th, we have our Love Thy Neighbor lunch and medical clinic. Come to Sunday school at 10:00am, help set up at 11:00am in Memorial Auditorium and serve our neighbors from 12:00pm-2:15pm. It's the best way to live out your faith, by loving God and loving neighbor.
- October 19th, join us for our Annual trip to Carowinds/Scarowinds! ALL youth are welcome (friends too) to join us for this super fun and totally scary trip. The cost of the trip is \$80 (which includes a ticket for entry to Carowinds and a ticket for reentry to Scarowinds) and \$25 for dinner plus any spending money you might need (FYI, Carowinds is a cashless venue). ***Parent disclaimer...Scarowinds is rated PG-13 (for its scare factor). If you are worried your student might not do well with being scared going through haunted houses, this might not be the event for you. You know your student best so please talk ahead of time about what they're most comfortable with. You can check out [Scarowinds](#) here.* **
- Friday night, October 24th, our Sixers! (our ministry to our 6th graders) will go on an AMAZE-ING adventure to the Alpha & Omega Corn Maze in Hamptonville, NC. The cost is \$20 per person. You must register ahead of time. Friends are welcome but also must register. You can register here!
- On October 26th, from 5:00pm-8:00pm, we are having an ALL youth (& their families) Halloween Progressive Dinner. We did this years ago and it was such a blast we are bringing it back. We will begin with hors d'oeuvres (appetizers) at the first house, move to another for dinner, and finally arrive at the last house for dessert. Each house will have a super fun game and devotion for us to reflect on. And there will be prizes for the best costumes too! Would you like to be a host? Let Tammy know by replying to this email!
- Registration is now open for our Twin City Conference Basketball Season (first game October 28th at 6:00pm). Twin City Conference is a unique basketball league that exists in partnership with our friends at Winston-Salem Street School, along with our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal, Ardmore Baptist, the Greek Orthodox Church, and First Presbyterian Church. Senior High boys (9th-12th grade) -- who are **NOT** on their school's varsity basketball team -- are invited to play for Centenary's basketball team... and yes, friends are welcome too! The cost to join the league is \$50. You **MUST** be registered to play and have a liability release form on file. You can register here.

- November 4th at 9:00am registration opens for our 2026 summer senior high mission trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico (July 18th-26th, 2026) with YouthWorks. All rising 9th-12th graders are eligible to go. Look for the link in our weekly emails or on Realm. A deposit of \$250 is required at the time of registration. With questions you may have, please contact Tammy or Kevin.

Ways parents can volunteer:

- Be a table leader for Sunday school. Come be a part of the conversations we have on Sunday mornings during Sunday school. You'll be amazed at what you will learn from our church babies.
- Be a volunteer on Sunday evenings at youth group. We always need more adults to be a part of our games, study, and conversations.
- Be a chaperone for our trip to Carowinds/Scarowinds. We love all our grown-ups that volunteer to join us for this trip. As an adult chaperone, all your costs are paid (tickets, meals, etc.). Please reply to this email to let us know if you would like to go.
- Volunteer to help coach, keep score, or wash uniforms for our Twin City Basketball Conference Centenary team. Please reply to this email to let us know if you would like to volunteer.
- Be a host for our Halloween Progressive Dinner on October 26th.
- Help us stock the 4th Floor Commons pantry! We are firm believers in "if you feed them, they will come"! Ask your teenager what their favorite snack is, pick some up the next time you are at the store, and send it with them for the pantry.

One more very important thing! If you do NOT get our weekly email from Constant Contact (it goes out every Thursday at 4:30pm. Please sign up here to get it. It is full of all kinds of information each week. But you have to opt in to get it!

We are so excited to have the chance to be with you all throughout the month of October in so many different ways! All we do is for YOU so that you may grow in your love for one another, grow in your faith, and grow in your understanding of God's great love for you. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just need a listening ear, we are here to help you navigate all things Centenary Youth Ministry.

Be Here! Be You! Be Loved! Belong!

Tammy & Kevin