



**ALLIANCE
YOUTH**

GAC Youth News & Events

October 2020

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GAC Youth Phase 2

Moving into the Fall-Winter

As we move into fall and winter we are excited to launch a new season of ministry. We are committed to living out our mission statement, “We exist to introduce teens to Jesus and make disciples of those who come to know Him”. While ministry may look different for now (especially in the winter months) we believe that God has amazing things in store for our group. Our schedule outlined below should take us through the end of the year. This Fall and Winter our youth ministry will consist of a combination of “Impact Groups” and “Gather Events”. As with anything in this season we may need to adapt as we go along, but we believe we have built a flexible program with a number of aspects that will give us the ability to cope with most potential changes that may come our way.

Gather Events

Each month we will have a “Gather Event” that will bring all of the small groups together to participate in a different experience. While some of these events may be familiar to some of our regular students we will be making an effort to ensure that they are extra special this year. Additionally, in past years these events had registration costs but this year they will be free to attend (aside from the purchase of food if applicable). These events will either be local or located at the church. During outdoor events, physical distancing will be encouraged, during indoor meetings masks will be required.

Impact Groups

What are Impact Groups? Impact Groups are engaging weekly cohort small groups that will meet at church on the weeks that we don't have our Gather Events. They will meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays (MS 6-8 Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm and HS 9-12 Thursday 6:30-7:30pm) and run through the end of the year (8 meetings total). We will be working through a study that will encourage students to grow in their faith and be impacted by God's Word so that they may in turn impact others. Each week there will be a different food served as a theme (Soft Pretzels, Pizza, Dip Night, etc.). Masks and physical distancing will be required during these meetings (masks may be removed when students are eating).

Covid Adjustments

We love the teens of our community. And in doing so we recognize that the school districts in Westmoreland County, which Greensburg Alliance Church is called to reach, serve, and love are going above and beyond to ensure that their students are able to attend the school year in person. One could easily think of a scenario in our current climate where a midweek youth ministry gathering which was less than careful could cause an issue that would reverberate throughout multiple school districts. During our indoor youth meetings masks will be required as we gather together. As mentioned before, there will be portions where food will be served and masks will not be required.

Operation Christmas Child Donations

Each year we collect various items from the beginning of the school year through November to pack shoeboxes to be sent to needy children throughout the world for our Operation Christmas Child Outreach. During this month we are encouraging students to begin purchasing toys that can be used to fill boxes. These toys can be a bigger “wow” item that will serve as the centerpiece of a box or they could be smaller items that can be used to fill multiple boxes. Each month we will be updating what we are focusing on collecting. Any donations can be returned to Rigel directly or placed in the bins in the Fellowship Hall.

October Schedule

Impact Groups

We are excited to launch our Impact Groups in the beginning of October (see schedule below). These groups will either meet on Wednesday nights (Grade 6-8) or Thursday Night (Grade 9-12). These groups will be held from 6:30-7:30pm on every week that we do not have a Gather event. There will be some type of food served each week with the food schedule being announced at the beginning of each month. There is no need to preregister for these groups.

Gather Event

Wednesday, October 14 our Gather Event (6:30-9:00pm) will be the Corn Maze at Lonesome Valley Farm (180 Fairgrounds Road, Greensburg PA) by Westmoreland County Fairgrounds. As in past years we have rented out the entire maze for our group. This means there is no limit on the number of students that we can bring to the event, so please feel free to invite friends! The rain date for the Gather event is on the following day, Thursday, October 15.

2020 Fall-Winter Schedule

October

- 30 (Sept) MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 1 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 7 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 8 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 14 Corn Maze @ Lonesome Valley Farms (Wed) (Westmoreland Fairgrounds) (Gather Event)
(Rain Date October 15)
- 21 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 22 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 28 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 29 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)

November

- 4 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 5 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 11 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 12 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 19 OCC Shoebox Packing Day (Thurs) (Gather Event)
- 25/26 No Impact Groups: Thanksgiving

December

- 2 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 3 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 9 MS Impact Groups (Wed)
- 10 HS Impact Groups (Thurs)
- 17 Christmas at GAC Youth (Thurs) (Gather Event)
- 23/24 No Impact Groups: Christmas
- 30/31 No Impact Groups: New Years