



## **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. Despite the challenges that come with navigating various aspects of reopening in the midst of a pandemic, 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 our regular students, we will be putting in 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 6th-8th Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm and HS 9th-12th 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 make it through 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.

### **Moving up Procedures**

Beginning on Sunday September 13th we will move up 6th graders into the GAC Youth Ministry. To be eligible to move up a student will have to be both in the 6th grade and at least 11 years of age by the beginning of September.

This year we will have a special breakfast outside under the large oak tree by the basketball hoops from 9:30-10:30am for our students who have just moved up. At this breakfast you will have a chance to meet our leaders and hear about what to expect in the youth ministry.

## September Schedule

- On the Thursday nights in September we will be have youth group together outside at the church from 6:30-8:30pm (3, 10, & 17). These meetings will be weather dependent and will not be held in the event of rain. We are asking students to bring their own chairs. Thursday, September 17, will be our first youth group with the incoming 6th graders, so let's make sure that we do all that we can to make them feel welcomed!
- Wednesday, September 23, will be our first "Gathering Event" (6:30-9pm) We will be renting out the corn maze at the Gearhard Farm in Murrysville (5909 Saltsburg Rd, Murrysville, PA 15668) and afterwards we will be heading over to Pastor Lu's house (1/4 mile up the road, 5651 Saltsburg Rd, Murrysville PA 15668) for a campfire and snacks. The event will be no cost to students and the drop off for the event will be at the corn maze and pick up will be at Pastor Lu's house. Students will be transported on the short trip from the maze to Lu's house in the church van with numerous trips to keep the numbers down. We are asking that students wear masks for the van ride. Students will also need to bring a camp chair to the event for seating. The rain date for the Gather event is on the following day, Thursday, September 24.

## 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 and donating back to school supplies. Each month we will be updating what we are focusing on collecting. Any donations can be returned to Rigel directly or placed in the bin in the Fellowship hall.

## 2020 Fall-Winter Schedule

### September

- 3 YG Outside Combined
- 10 YG Outside Combined
- 17 YG Outside Combined /Move up
- 23 (RD 24) Corn Maze @ Gearhard Farm (Murrysville & Campfire Fire @ Pastor Lu's House) (Gather event)

### October

- 30 (Sept) MS & 1 HS Impact Groups
- 7 MS & 8 HS Impact Groups
- 14 (RD 15) Cornmaze @ Lonesome Valley Farms (Westmoreland Fairgrounds)
- 21 MS & 22 HS Impact Groups
- 28 MS & 29 HS Impact Groups

### November

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

### December

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