



SOUTHSIDE MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER 10.14.20

Youth Group Update – Jeremy

God is teaching me a lot during this season of instability, and so much of that teaching has come from my interaction with our students in the youth ministry. Things have been as crazy and chaotic for middle and high schoolers as they have been for anyone, yet I have seen them respond to their circumstances in faithful, Christ-honoring ways over and over.

Our students have been there for one another. Back when things first shut down, some of our older students made a point to reach out to all of our younger students through a text or phone call, in order to make sure they stayed cared for and connected.

Our students have stayed committed and involved. It is so easy to be disconnected from the church family right now, but our students, whether in person or through the various digital ways to connect, have found ways to be present with one another. In fact, we are having so many students join our Cocoons (small groups) on Wednesday nights right now that we're having to constantly find creative ways to keep our groups safely socially distanced.

Our students are making decisions to follow Jesus. Just in the past couple of weeks we have had two students follow Jesus in baptism: Abby Morris and Nathan Samples. Praise God for their decisions to make Jesus their lord!

Even though I never expected to go through a season of youth ministry like this, it has been a wonderful blessing to see God at work in the lives and hearts of our students! We are following Kentucky's guidelines for social distancing at all of our events and gatherings, so if you're a student or have students in middle or high school, we'd love to see you! Here are a few things going on:

FLOUR BOMBS - Friday, October 23rd, 6:30-9:00 - SIGN UP AT <https://forms.gle/Qkg1HPFtQJEkPSH79>

Southside students AND families are invited out to the Matar's for a cookout and FLOUR BOMBS! In addition to hot dogs and s'mores, we'll be beating each other senseless with panty hose filled with flour. Don't miss it! All food and drinks will be provided. Masks will not be required outdoors.

COCOONS - Wednesday, 6:30pm-8:00pm

This Wednesday we will be meeting at the church building at 6:30 for our worship and Cocoons time! During our time we'll play games, worship, and break down into small groups to build spiritual relationships, study God's word, and pray for one another. Our Cocoons are divided by gender and age and practice social distancing. Make sure to bring a mask!



Sundays in the Gathering Place – Barrett

“If I have to watch the livestream on a screen, then I might as well just stay at home.”

Perhaps you’ve said or had a thought similar to the above statement. It’s ok if you have. I can completely understand how you might feel this way. Yet, I think this is a common misperception about the gathering place on Sunday mornings. In case you have not recently been to the gathering place on a Sunday morning, I want to let you know that our AV team has created a wonderful worship environment in that space. I think if you were to come, then you would be pleasantly surprised and delighted by the opportunity for corporate worship in our gathering place on Sunday mornings. Listen to what Jim & Cathy Haubenreich had to say about being in there for the first time this past week:

“Worshipping in the Gathering Place was a first for us, and it is SO much better than Zoom worship at home. In fact, we truly felt “at home” in the Gathering Place because we were surrounded by and in the building with so many of our brothers and sisters. We could hear perfectly and the singing was great. An added bonus was the nice, green chairs for old folks.”

Of course, if you are still uncomfortable and cautious about returning to the building right now, then please do not feel pressured to come. But for those who are able to return to the building, then I want you to know that the gathering place is not a lesser option. It is not just a secondary place for those who were unable to sign up for the auditorium. Instead, it is a unique setting to worship with your Southside family on a Sunday morning. In fact, I have heard from several young families that they even prefer the gathering place because it is a less formal, more family friendly setting. There are 80 available spots and the setting improves with each spot that is filled. So, allow me to encourage you to check it out. I think you will be glad that you did.

A Shepherd’s Prayer – Bob

In the Physical Education classroom of life, many of us sit somewhere between answering youth, and questioning the age of dirt. Education is a very interesting part of each stage of life.

Our youth are primarily taught facts. Often, application of the ‘known’ will not occur until the time for higher learning. Why then is it surprising when children complain when too many facts come without application?

As this applies to Christian parents and caretakers, we can all be more effective in the development of the children in our care.

- Offer biblical application to your children ‘along the way’. This will result in a deeper, richer understanding of life’s purpose that will change them from within.
- Teach your children to have a relationship with God early. Put yourself in timeout and ask them to go pray to God. Impress upon them that God will understand even if you don’t.
- Involve them in your Christian service. Your willingness to take this time will allow them to develop who they will become.
- Prepare them to lead by allowing them to put their initiative into action.
- Prepare them to fail before leaving home by not rescuing them, but supporting them. Be patient in letting them run on the rocky path while preparing to pick them up.

With biblical application, we learn how to respect ourselves, interact with others and the environment, and develop an eternal relationship with God.

“Father, may we teach ourselves and those around us your ways, your truths, and your Good News of Jesus the Messiah. May we never stand aside as others watch without seeing, and confound their knowledge without knowing who You are.”