**Regathering Strategy for HWC Youth**

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**Opening Words from Pastor Jordan**

As we all try to figure out what life looks these days and as we try to regather as a youth group, please know that we cannot guarantee 100% safety against Covid-19. We will do all we can to make youth group nights and events as safely as possible. Allowing your youth to come is a risk that you will be willing to take.

Things will be much different, but that does not mean that we disengage or give up. Let’s embrace this new time so that we can continue to grow in Jesus Christ together. This will be tough, and it will get frustrating, at times, but please do not give up hope and faith. God is truly doing something new in the lives of our youth, and we all get to be a part of this.

As we regather, we will model Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” As Christians we are to value others more than ourselves. This is biblical basis we are asking for everyone to model when in the youth group. Please give lots of grace and patience as we move forward together. All the procedures will model putting others before our own selves.

**Start Date**

September 16 (Wednesday)

**Safety Measures**

We will do our best to keep everyone as safe as we can. There is no guarantee that there will be 100% safe.

**We ask that you honor Governor Evers statewide mask mandate**

Governor Evers has issued a Statewide Mask Mandate. This order requires anyone age five and older to wear a face covering when: The individual is indoors or in an enclosed space, other than at a private residence; and; Another person or persons who are not members of an individual's household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space. The order also strongly recommends face coverings in all other settings, including outdoors, when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing. What does this mean for our Wednesday night youth group? Simply put, we're asking that if you are gathering in person for services on Wednesdays, we ask that you honor this order and wear a mask.

**We will limit the number of youth in each room to keep number of contacts low**

We will seek to have smaller numbers together in rooms. This means that the middle and high schoolers will be divided so that the middle schoolers will meet in the Sanctuary and the High School will meet in the Theatre Room. The events of a Wednesday night will be done together with the youths’ small groups. The youth will stay with their small groups for the night to keep the number of people in contact down. There will be a few times during some larger times (worship, message, snack) that the middle schoolers and high schoolers will be together and separated from each other. We will try to do things outside if the weather permits.

**Hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged to be used**

There will be hand sanitizer available upon entry into the church building and with each small group. Each youth will be asked to use hand sanitizer before partaking in the snack for the night.

**Snack will be served separately from the middle and high schoolers**

Snack time will be served in the theatre room (middle school) and the fireside room (high school). Snack will be prepackaged and individually wrapped. Snack time will not be a meal therefore it is encouraged to eat dinner beforehand. Masks can be taken off to eat, but they must be put back on afterwards.

**Locations for youth group will be cleaned properly**

The rooms, bathrooms, objects, chairs, etc., will be cleaned before and after Wednesday nights. As part of the cleaning process, we will have small group specific materials for the night so that the materials don’t multiply hands.

**Separate locations in the church for the middle and high schoolers**

We ask that the middle and high schoolers stay on their respective locations for the night to keep the numbers of people in close proximity down. We will try to do things outside if the weather permits.

**Sick Policy**

We ask that if your youth is sick that it would be best to stay home for the night. It is better to be safe than sorry. There will be an online component for youth group so missing Wednesday in person does not mean one is missing being a part of youth group.

**Wednesday Night**

|  |
| --- |
| Youth Group |
| Open Doors   * 6pm |
| Starts   * 7pm   Middle School in Sanctuary  High School in the Theatre Room  Rotation (1 hr. 20 min.)  20 minutes each |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Snack/Hangout/  Game | Praise and Worship | Small Group  Bible and Prayer | Message | |
| Small Groups   * 8:20pm – 9:00pm * Break up into small group rooms * Discuss message |
| Pick-Up   * 9:00pm |

**Explanation of Wednesday Nights**

Youth group will still start at 7 pm and end 9 pm. Middle Schoolers will enter through the front doors of the church, and the high schoolers will enter in the side door closest to the Theatre Room. The youth will stay on their side of the church building for most of the night.

Everyone will be in their respective small groups for the whole night. These small groups will correspond to the grade and gender of the youth. These groups will rotate through different “stations” throughout the night so that everyone can engage in all the various activities and discipleship. The small group leaders will be the first point of contact for the youth for the night.

**Small Group Night Outings**

Small group night outings are designed to further connect with your small groups outside of the church. The purpose of these is to slowly begin to show that youth group and church is not just a Wednesday night at the Hayward Wesleyan Church, but it can truly be anywhere. Plus, this is a great entry point for the youth to invite a friend.

These nights will be “off-campus” somewhere in the community, but the church will be available for a location to meet. On a small group night outing week, it is up to the small group leaders and their small group to figure out a location to meet and what to do together. For instance, a small group might just go meet at a restaurant and eat together, or just have a movie night at your house, or pile up into a car and take a small road trip to another town. This does not have to be done on Wednesday night. Your small group might choose to go out on a Saturday to hang out. The possibilities are endless. The one thing that I do require is that you let me know one week in advance about the details of your outing so that I can properly communicate this to the parents/guardians. Lastly, there will be a small amount of money set aside to help with any costs for these nights.

The tentative dates for these outings are:

* October 21
* January 27
* March 3
* April 28

**Youth Leadership Team**

This year, we will be starting a leadership team that high schoolers can take part in. This is designed to have deeper discipleship and give the high schoolers an opportunity to lead in the youth group. This will be a year-long commitment where we will meet, grow in Jesus, and seek to reach those who don’t know Jesus. Part of the commitment is being involved in leading youth group and helping run it. There will be some other requirements, but for the most part, the youth will be challenged to become role models, own their faith, and take ownership in the youth group.

**Online Youth Group**

If the youth are not able to be in person for various reasons, there will be an online component youth group. Each week the sermon message will be recorded and uploaded to Youtube on the “Hayward Wesleyan Church Youth” page. In addition, the small group questions will be emailed out to the parents/households so that there can be further discussions about the week’s message.

The plan as us right now if everything gets shutdown is to go to online youth group. There are a few ideas, but nothing concrete yet. HWC Youth is in the process of designing a backup, online, plan that would be implemented if we cannot meet in person.

**ParentCue App**

Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to download the ParentCue app. This app will keep you up to date each week with what we will be discussing at youth group, plus there are great resources for age specific ways of practically parenting and engaging with your youth spiritually. This will be a helpful resource for parents/guardians to help parent and disciple their youth throughout the whole week. You can find the ParentCue app in your Google Play, Apple, and Android stores.

**Contact**

If there are any questions about this coming youth group, please contact Pastor Jordan.

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