

## Children's and Youth Ministries

Director of Youth Ministries: Rachel Loomis

Sunday School Education Ministry Assistant: Starlite Buchholz

The 2019 Children's and Youth Ministries school year started off with a remodel of our church basement due to flooding from old pipes. We were displaced for about 3 months. During this time, we were able to update the Children's and Youth Ministry and make it more inviting. It also allowed us to "de-clutter" and clean out closets and supply areas. We were able to get back into our rooms by the Advent Season. We had about 3 months to break in our new surroundings before we were closed down by the COVID-19 outbreak. During this time, we did Sunday School on-line by posting videos and crafts and sending home supplies to the families.

### **Children's Ministry**

#### Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is currently being held via Zoom every Sunday. We send home curriculum worksheets and crafts that the families can do either independently or with us over Zoom. We have been averaging anywhere from 8 to 15 kids and 6 to 7 teachers each week. In addition to Zoom, we have been staying in touch with our families via a Sunday School Facebook group, email and greeting cards to our students on special occasions and birthdays.

Sunday School teachers: Cheri Baker, Becky Phillips, Sandi Montague, Phyllis Merrill, Sierra Hogg, Linda Hawley, Joe Glesener, and Renee Glesener

#### VBS

Over the summer in lieu of VBS we bought 300 backpacks and collected back-to-school supplies from our congregation. We were also able to include a VBS lesson plan and crafts to add to the bags. We handed out the 300 bags to our Sunday School kids as well as the local community. We handed out all the bags via a drive-thru method to limit contact.

#### Children's Cornerstone

Last year we offered a Children's Cornerstone class on Tuesday nights for a Fall and Winter Session. Phyllis Merrill continued her Tuesday night sewing class for young children.

## **Youth Ministry**

### UMY Leader Trainings and Meetings

Until March 2020, leaders met in-person for trainings and meetings and used email, texting, and phone calls to communicate throughout the week. Beginning March 2020, Rachel trains and meets with the UMY Leaders virtually on Zoom prior to or following UMY and continues to utilize email, texting, and phone calls. Prior to the start of the 2020 UMY year, Rachel and the UMY Leaders met for one socially distanced meeting outside.

Current Youth Group Leaders: Starlite Buchholz, Jim Door, Sherry Elvik, Sierra Hogg, Sean Holloway, Danny Kuby, Kiauna Kuby, Dick Nelson, Jeff Varzandeh

Brandon Elvik and Nicole Loomis were youth group Leaders through the summer of 2020

### United Methodist Youth (UMY)

Up until March 2020, the Jr. and Sr. UMY met weekly for UMY events, fellowship, worship, and devotion time. The Sr. UMY went on their Ski Trip to Silver Mountain in January and the Sr. UMY went on their Bluewood Ski Day in January. On Friday March, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Rachel canceled the Spring Retreat planned for that weekend and beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup> started virtual UMY on Zoom. Zoom UMY occurred every Sunday from 6-8 PM for Jr. and Sr. UMY into June and then summer UMY on Zoom occurred every other week. Beginning in the 2020 UMY year, Jr. and Sr. UMY now meet weekly and separately on Zoom. Jr. UMY meets on Zoom from 5-6:30 PM and Sr. UMY meets from 6:30-8 PM. Zoom UMY consists of a time of fellowship at the beginning, devotion and prayer, and then an activity or multiple activities.

Some of the Zoom UMY activities have included scavenger hunts, Pictionary, Scategories, Trivia, Bingo, Mad Libs, 20 Questions, Family Feud, movie nights, baking and cooking, various get-to-know-you games, etc. Once in the spring and once in the fall, Rachel had the youth sign up for receiving UMY supplies on the Reopen Church website, purchased supplies, and organized the supplies into bags. In the spring Rachel delivered the supplies to the youth's homes and in the fall, the supplies were available at the Ice Blocking activity to be picked up. We then did activities on Zoom together with the supplies. For example, the bags had supplies to make pancake art, paint canvases, make a time capsule, write letters giving thanks to people, such as first responders and teachers, bake goodies, paint pumpkins, and make slime.

In the fall of 2020, we began to do socially distanced in-person activities:

#### UMY Drive-Thru Orientation

In the afternoon before the Jr. UMY and Sr. UMY Orientation parent meetings began on Zoom, youth and families drove through the drive-thru spot at the church to pick up their UMY packet and goodies from Rachel and their leaders. Then the meetings on Zoom later in the evening explained the UMY packet in detail.

### UMY Ice Blocking

Jr. and Sr. UMY signed up on the Reopen Church website for an ice block, Rachel ordered the ice blocks, some of the leaders and Rachel picked up the ice block order, and then met the youth and other leaders at Carmichael Hill in Richland for ice blocking. Following ice blocking, the youth and leaders gathered at the bottom of the hill for a socially distanced time of announcements, devotion, and prayer. Families then picked up their youth following the event.

### Sunday School and UMY Corn Maze Event

Sunday School students, Sunday School Teachers, UMYers, youth group Leaders, and families were invited to sign up on the Reopen Church website for the Corn Maze event at Middleton Farms. We met at Middleton Farms, enjoyed the festival's activities while socially distancing, and then gathered at a fire pit that Rachel and Starlite reserved for a socially distanced time of devotion and prayer.

### Youth Sunday School

The Jr. and Sr. UMY met in-person for Sunday School at 9:00 AM up until March when we switched to providing Sunday School lessons virtually on Zoom at 9:00 AM, taught by Brittany Becker, Jim Door, and Rachel Loomis. From March until June we held Youth Sunday School on Zoom, taught by Brittany Becker, Jim Door, and Rachel Loomis. Beginning the 2020 UMY year up until now, we do not have virtual Youth Sunday School on Sunday mornings due to combining our Bible study efforts and resources with Cornerstone.

### Youth Cornerstone

Into March 2020, Bracken Deatherage lead a boys' Bible Study and Rachel lead a girls' Bible study. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the final girls' Bible study lesson of the spring was completed via Zoom.

In an effort to not spread Bible study efforts and resources thin, we combined virtual Sunday School and Cornerstone on Zoom for the beginning of the 2020 UMY year. The Jr. UMY meets on Zoom for Cornerstone from 6:00-7:00 PM, the Sr. UMY joins the Jr. UMY on Zoom from 7:00-7:15 for a combined fellowship and prayer time, and then at about 7:15 the Jr. UMY signs off of Zoom and the Sr. UMY begins their Bible study time.

Jr. UMY Curriculum: The Gospel Project: Letters to God's People (curriculum sent to each youth virtually)

Jr. UMY Cornerstone Teachers: Bracken Deatherage and Rachel Loomis

Attendance: 8 total youth have attended, the usual number in one night is 3-4

Sr. UMY Curriculum: The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Sr. UMY Cornerstone Teachers: Chris Becker, Jim Door, and Rachel Loomis

Attendance: 8 are signed up and have received the book and study guide, the usual number in one night is 5-8.

### 3:33 Fellowship

Sr. High was not meeting for 3:33 fellowship on Thursdays from Fall 2019 to March 2020 due to lack of attendance for several weeks (0 youth). However, in an effort to keep youth connected during COVID-19, Rachel started 3:33 on Zoom on Thursdays and attendance was OK due to youth having more open schedules. By June 2020, attendance again was low (1 youth or 0 youth), so Rachel discontinued 3:33 and is open to beginning a new fellowship opportunity.

### Community Service and Mission Opportunities

The 2020 Mission Trip (and Middler Trip) was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Thank You Letters

In the fall, one UMY activity was to write multiple Thank You letters to people who help others or help us.

#### Community and All-Church Trunk-or-Treat

UMYers and church members were invited to decorate a trunk and participate in the trunk-or-treat for the community. Trunks were parked at every other parking spot and tubes or pipes were used to ensure we were passing out candy from 6+ feet away. There was an amazing turn out from the community. Following clean up, the UMY gathered in the grassy area for a socially distanced time of announcements, devotion, and prayer.

#### Rake-N-Run

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> was the UMY Rake-N-Run. Jr. and Sr. UMY met at one church member's home, raked their lawn, and then their family drove them to the second church member's home to rake their lawn. Following raking the second home, we gathered in the lawn for a socially distanced time of announcements, devotion, and prayer.

### Fundraisers

The Jr. UMY completed their annual Rock-a-Thon fundraiser in January 2020. The Sr. UMY auction was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are currently in the middle of the 2020 Butter Braid fundraiser. The UMYers were given part of the church directory to call and people have the option to pay for their Butter Braids online through Push Pay or to send a check in the mail to the church office. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, people will pick up their Butter Braids at the drive-thru spot of the church from Rachel and a couple other adults so that youth do not deliver Butter Braids.

## Communication

During COVID-19, we have been communicating in several ways including phone calls, e-mails, texting, Facetime (with siblings together or more than one youth calling), Facebook and Facebook messaging, Instagram, Zoom, and handwritten cards, letters, and postcards in the mail. Rachel began to occasionally socially distance visit with youth and families outside on their front yards as well. To sign up for events and to receive supplies, we use Reopen Church.

## The Breakfast Club

Beginning in September, Rachel started a young adult Bible Study group on Zoom every other Sunday at 11:30 AM with the goal of drinking coffee, eating breakfast, visiting, studying Bible study lessons, and praying together. The first time we met there were 3 total young adults in attendance (including Rachel), the second time we met there was 2 total in attendance (including Rachel), and there has not been anyone in addition to Rachel since the second meeting. Rachel is in the process of altering the day, time, and frequency of Breakfast Club meetings to better accommodate young adults.

## Funday

Beginning in March 2020 into June, Rachel and Mikayla Bateman met with the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Zoom weekly for lunch, a time of devotion and prayer, and activities (the activities the UMYers did). Rachel and Gracee Glesener resumed Funday on Zoom in September 2020 with meetings every other week for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The average amount of students who meet for Funday is about 3-4, but has been up to 6 or 7.