



SKIDAWAY ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Savannah, GA 31411

912-598-8460 | www.siumc.org

RESOURCES (continued)

“Grace Based Parenting” by Dr. Tim Kimmel

Dr. Kimmel recommends a parenting style that mirrors God’s love, reflects His forgiveness, and displaces fear as a motivator for behavior. As we embrace the grace God offers, we begin to give it-creating a solid foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children.

“Five Love Languages of Teenagers” by Gary Chapman

Dr. Chapman explores the world in which teenagers live, explains their developmental changes, and gives parents tools to help identify and appropriately communicate in your teen’s love language.

“Unlocking your family patterns: Finding Freedom from a Hurtful Past”

by: Dr. Henry Cloud, Dr. John Townsend,
Dr. Earl Henslin, and Dave Carder

Center for Parent and Youth Understanding www.cpyu.org

This is a gold mine of searchable youth culture resources going back years. There is a constant flow of up to date reviews of what is going on in the world of teens. This site is not about shock and awe but helps make sense of the confusing world of youth culture with practical suggestions targeted at how to respond to all of this.

www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/teens.aspx

This has been a trusted resource for so many years of top quality resources for the family. It is a door way to dozens of articles answering the questions that parents grapple with all of the time.

RESOURCES

These resources are recommended by the staff of SIUMC to better equip you as parents and spiritual leaders of teens.

“Point Man: How a Man Can Lead His Family”

by: Steve Farrar

“The Hidden Value of a Man: Created to Lead, Empowered to Succeed”

by: Gary Smalley & John Trent

“The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family: A Leadership Fable”

by: Patrick Lencioni

“How to Really Love Your Child”

by: Ross Campbell

“The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance”

by: John Trent & Gary Smalley

“Parenting by The Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child”

by: John Rosemond

“The Father Connection: How You Can Make the Difference in Your Child’s Self-Esteem and Sense of Purpose”

by: Josh McDowell

“Have a New Teenager by Friday” by Dr. Kevin Leman

The teen years are tough! In this insightful parenting book, Dr. Leman encourages parents to look at how they react to their teen and instead allow reality to be the teacher as teens maneuver through these challenging years.



WELCOME TO THE SKIDAWAY METHODIST YOUTH MINISTRY (SMYM)

We are committed to helping both your youth and your family grow deeper in your faith. Each of our programs has been designed with youth in mind - to foster spiritual growth through **Knowing** God, **Growing** in our relationship with him, **Showing** His love to others, and **Going** to share our faith in our calling. We want each of your youth to have a memorable experience in their teenage years and to develop a lifelong faith.

This Handbook was written with you in mind.
Please read it and become familiar with all of the sections.

If you have any questions,
please contact our
Youth Director, Luke Hamner.

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Email: luke@siumc.org

OUR VISION is to develop and grow
your students' relationship with Christ.

OUR MISSION as a youth group is to do *all* of four things:

Know, Grow, Show, and Go...

OUR DESIRE is to disciple students to
Know Jesus,
Grow in Jesus,
Show Jesus' love to others,
and Go tell people about Him.

**G
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W**



Rev. Hale Bishop will lead us into a *pathway* to deeper faith. He has chosen the theme **GROW**. Our youth ministry design is in concert with the *pathway* you will see developed over the next few months.



We begin our journey as we *gain* faith, we come to *know* Jesus and take the first steps toward faith. Then as we continue on our journey we start to *retain* more of the information we have heard and **GROW** in our relationship with Jesus. This is evident in our closer walk and we begin to *own* our faith a bit more and in doing this we *show* others who this Jesus is and how He has changed our lives. When we become more and more mature in faith we come to a point where our faith is a part of our *walk* and we *go* into the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Every student should be on this path whether he or she is just beginning or ready to show Jesus' love and tell others that they are growing in their relationship personally with the Lord. The youth program here at Skidaway Island UMC includes students in Middle and High School (grades 6th - 12th). Along with pursuing a deeper relationship with Christ, we love hanging out, having fun, and serving others!

DISCIPLINE

Discipline here at SMYM is a level process.

First level: This is a very informal verbal warning.

I will speak to your student about the problem and ask them to correct it. At this level you as a parent will not be communicated with. This is in an effort to call your student up to take responsibility of their actions.

Second level: This is a more serious and intentional verbal talk.

This is the students second warning without the parental involvement. Again, this is in an effort to call your student to take responsibility and action on their own.

Third level: If we reach this level a parent will be contacted.

We will ask you to speak to your student and to become part of the discipline process in whichever way you see fit.

Fourth level: If the issue continues we will call you to come and pick your student up from the event or activity.

They are always welcome back and these levels of action are put into effect to continue the culture that we are trying to create here at SMYM.

There may be incidents that occur that require a student to go home immediately. This type of action will be up to the discretion of the youth director.

COMMUNICATION

We communicate mainly in four different ways...

Email: We send out emails every week about upcoming events, things we are teaching, and much much more!

If you would like to receive these emails, you can go to the church website and under the youth page subscribe to our weekly emails.

Blast texts: We use an app called “remind.” This app allows us to send out quick updates about the youth ministry. These updates can be about how things are going on our retreats, where we are if we go out to eat as a youth group, and reminders about upcoming events.

If you would like to receive these texts, text the number “81010” and in the text box put @SMYMP.

Your student can also receive updates as well at “81010” and in the text box put @SMYMS.

Facebook & Instagram: We have a “SMYM” Facebook and Instagram page where I send out reminders about upcoming Wednesday nights, events, and encouraging scripture. This is a great tool for sharing and letting your friends know what we are doing as a youth ministry.

Handouts: These are little pieces of paper that I give your student on Wednesdays and Sundays that can be put on your fridge or given to friends.

MY PASSION & CALLING

As I serve here at Skidaway Island AUMC it is important that you, as parents, know my passion, my heart, and where I come from. I was raised in a military family and when I was six years of age I went to my parents and asked if I could be saved. My parents asked me questions so that I actually knew what I was talking about instead of just pleasing them and was baptized soon after. When I tell my story I say that this was the moment that I gave my life to Christ but I was far from making him Lord over my life. Throughout my upbringing, I went through being bullied, spouts of depression, and asked many questions of why suffering exists if a good God is in control. I felt alone and unlovable.



It wasn't until my 12th grade year that I really made God the Lord and controller of my life. The Lord has used my questions and my trials to fuel the passion of creating a place where all students can come and feel safe to be themselves, be loved by caring people in the body of Christ, and feel free to ask questions that are hard but ultimately grow their relationship with God. My calling is to love your students in this place and to support you as parents and to support your students as they make their faith their own. I am excited to have the opportunity to love on your student no matter what stage of life they are. - Luke





CORE YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Fall Youth Parent Informational Meeting:

An opportunity to gather together and hear what is coming up for the school year and complete reviews of previous year.

Various Events:

Events are held throughout the year such as scavenger hunts and themed nights, i.e. movie and game nights.

Service Opportunities:

During the year, we will be serving throughout our community in places such as *American's Second Harvest*, within our congregation, and other opportunities.

Youth Sunday:

Celebrates our youth, their gifts, and the accomplishments of our confirmands and graduating seniors with a special service and reception.

“River of Life” Summer Mission Trip:

A trip to serve others, grow in community, and deepen our faith.

SAFETY POLICIES

Participation: Youth will not be allowed to roam away from the group or leave without parental permission.

Child Protection/Abuse: SMYM is a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse and/or neglect. Our volunteers and staff will report anything we may suspect as being abuse under the child abuse laws. The volunteers and staff will consult the Senior Pastor and the Senior Pastor will contact the proper authorities.

Safety and Security Procedures: SMYM monitors all children to reduce the risk of injury; however, accidents occur. If your child is involved in an accident, immediate attention and appropriate medical and emotional action will be taken to meet your child's needs. Parents will be notified of all injuries. If the injury is moderate to serious, a parent will be notified immediately. An Incident Report Form will be kept on file.

Safe Sanctuary: We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation and follow guidelines to ensure that our young people are in a safe environment and free from any form of abuse. Our staff and volunteers go through training, agree to follow specific policies and complete background checks. We follow a “two-adult” rule at all youth events and have an “open-door” policy for any parent wanting to visit the youth program at any time.

Permission Slips: All parents must fill out a release form for each of their minor children. If a release form is not on file, your child may not attend the event or trip.

Inclement Weather Policy: The church office under the direction of the Church Staff will send out an email or blast text concerning cancellation of church services or church ministry activities. As a rule, if the surrounding Public Schools are closed on Wednesday our Wednesday evening events for youth will be cancelled.

CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY RULES

YOUTH PROGRAMS & CURRICULUM

All programs include grade 6th-12th

1. Students must respect one another, ministry staff, adult leaders and the church facilities.

2. Electronics are not to be used or played with during youth group unless permission is given.

3. Youth must ask permission to leave the youth room and may not leave a youth activity without prior parental permission given to the Youth Director.

4. No possession or use of alcohol, drugs, vapes, or tobacco.

5. No fighting, weapons, fireworks, lighters or explosives.

All parents are required to fill out a Medical Form for each of their children, including all allergies and medical conditions.

If your student has a life-threatening allergy, please also alert the Youth Director with detailed expectations of how to handle a reaction with the Allergy Action Plan Form.

Sunday life group:

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Upstairs youth room

This Sunday class is designed to help middle school and high school youth grow in their faith and knowledge of God.



Wednesday night group:

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Upstairs youth room

Wednesday nights are focused on building community through fellowship, sharing a meal together, and spiritual growth through relevant teaching. Our goal is to challenge our students to build genuine relationships with God and each other.





• • • • • **SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT** • • • • •

Assessing the Spiritual Growth for every student at SMYM

Love God and “KNOW”

- Matthew 22:37

- Student is interested in the Christian faith and seeks to grow spiritually
- Student attends on Sunday mornings (10am service and Sunday school)
- Student attends Wednesday evening youth group
 - Student attends events and trips
- Student takes the next step and joins Confirmation
 - Student has a basic understanding of the core Biblical message and its principles

Love Others and “GROW”

- Matthew 22:39

- Student is involved in the community of the church and now makes a decision to serve
 - Student leads in worship as an acolyte
- Student leads in worship through their musical gifts
- Student teaches others and is an example to those younger
 - Student leads others and offers input as a student leader on the Youth Committee
 - Student moved from participation to being an active leader in the church, using their gifts

Serve the World as you “SHOW LOVE”

- Matthew 28:19-20

- Student is living missionally and taking their faith beyond the church
- Student is a regular participant in service projects and mission trips
- Student actively engages their peers, sharing their faith and inviting them to church
- Student lives out their faith missionally, living out the character and life of Christ in their everyday lives

Convergence as you “GO”

- John 15:7-8

- Student is actively growing in their faith, sharing their faith, and is a leader in the church.
- Student is a participant in all three core areas of the ministry process
- Student is maturing in all three areas of the ministry process
- Student is reproducing the process in the lives of other students