



HS Youth Group Meetings- November

Our November meetings will be November 6nd and 20th. With Bible Study on the 13th.
See the full schedule on the website shawanozion.org/youth

Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all who joined in the fun for our Trunk or Treat event especially Julie Effenberger. We handed out candy and flyers with information on the youth programing- especially VBS to over 700 kids. Thanks to all who donated candy too.



Halloween Party

The High School Youth group did an amazing job providing games and fun for the HS/MS Halloween party. Thanks to all who brought friends and came to have a good time!



Confirmation

Congratulations to Joe Felhofer, Charlie Grieves, Ethan Heling, Nya Huntington, and Grady Krone on their Confirmation.

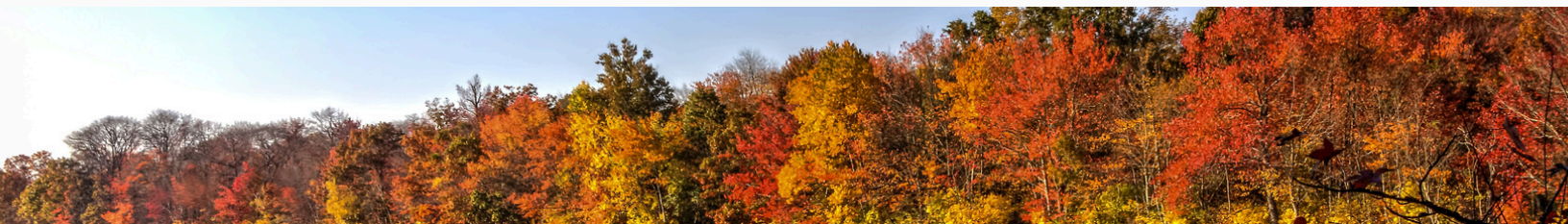


"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

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“Support Our Youth” Calendar

Congrats to all who participated in fall sports. It’s almost time to get the winter sports & activities calendar up! If you want to be included in the calendar- please send your sport or activity to Kristin.

Game Night- November 10th

We will be hosting our first Game Night November 10th 4:30-6pm. We will have board games, card games, bingo, and bags. We will have snacks and drink available. All ages are invited to join in the fun.



Homemade Holiday Craft Show- November 16

The Youth will be helping set up, work the Books & Puzzles booth, and tear down the craft show. Set up starts at 7am. Students can sign up for shifts to work in the Youth Lounge

End The Silence- Mental Health Conversation- Nov 20 @ 6:30pm

Our youth group is excited to host an important presentation from the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) 'Ending the Silence' program. This interactive session will empower students to talk openly about mental health, recognize early warning signs, and learn how to support themselves and others. Mental health matters, and through this program, we hope to create a safe space for conversation, reduce stigma, and equip our youth with tools to thrive emotionally and mentally. This presentation is a collaboration between Joel Yeakey with ROADS, Nancy Schultz with Health Ministry and NAMI and our youth.

We will be inviting youth from other Churches and the High School. A Parent’s presentation will be held at a later date.

Child Protection Training

As we get our Youth and Family programing up and running we will need help from the congregation. If you are interested or know someone that would be a perfect fit four our programs, please reach out to Kristin. See the website (shawanozion.org/volunteer-opportunities) for more information.

Seeking Mentors and other Volunteers

As we get our Youth and Family programing up and running we will need help from the congregation. If you are interested or know someone that would be a perfect fit four our programs, please reach out to Kristin. See the website (shawanozion.org/volunteer-opportunities) for more information. Positions available:

Rent a Youth

High school youth will be continuing the Rent a Youth service & fundraising project this fall. We will be advertising that youth are available to help with projects for a donation to the youth fund. Please take advantage of this opportunity to earn service hours and support the youth program. Watch for information from Curt Preston, watch the SportsYou App, check the Youth Bulletin Board or the Volunteer Board in the Youth Lounge for work opportunities.

Carwash Cards

We will continue to sell Kwik Trip carwash cards to raise funds for our programming. They are always available in the main office and will be available between services several times a month.

Parent’s Corner

Every month, I'll share insights on issues that many parents of teenagers face. I hope you find the information helpful and thought-provoking. If there's a specific topic you'd like me to cover, please let me know!

November at a Glance

Nov 6- Youth Group Confirmation

Nov 10- Game Night

Nov 11- Child Protection Training

Nov 13- HS Bible Study Confirmation

Nov 16- Holiday Craft Show

Nov 20- YG Mental Health Conversation Confirmation

Nov 28- Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec 6- Holiday Parade (mark you calendars)



Parent's Corner

Prioritizing Our Marriages During the Child-Raising Years - [Katie Polski](#) | March 14, 2024

"I barely know my husband anymore. I'm afraid of having an empty nest." My friend's words had a sharp edge to them as we walked laps around the park. But even through her obvious angst, I could sense her sadness.

She was a year away from all the kids being out of the house. While some look forward to this stage of life, my friend was dreading it. She and her husband had grown apart after years of focusing solely on their children. Their marriage was sustained by the distractions of football and soccer games, teen gatherings in their home, and shuffling kids to and fro. Now, the looming prospect of a quieter house with no distractions between them was unwelcome.

Unfortunately, her story is not uncommon, especially with the sometimes out-of-control teenage schedules that pull us in a million different directions. According to recent studies, divorce rates have doubled for empty nesters over the course of the past generation, and in many cases it's because the marriage took a backseat to the kids.

If you, like my friend, find your marriage feels fragile because it has become subsidiary, please hear this gospel message. There is no person and no relationship that is beyond God's power to heal. Jesus loves you more than you will ever understand. He will use your desire to strengthen what is weak for your good and for his glory.

For Christians in otherwise healthy relationships, imperfect as they are, we must do what we can during the child-rearing years to prioritize our marriages amid the demands that require our attention. By God's grace, you can start by remembering his design for your marriage, praying fervently and worshipping together, and pursuing each other throughout the time God gives you.

Remember God's Design for Marriage

Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." In many ways this passage is foundational for understanding God's intent for a Christian marriage. In fact, Jesus himself quoted it when talking about the union of a man and woman (Matt. 19:5). At its essence, marriage displays God's glory as it was originally designed by God himself – he spoke marriage into existence when he created Adam and Eve!

When a couple makes vows to one another God himself is joining together two people as one flesh. As Christians, this is why we fight for reconciliation and push against the all-too-common willingness to give up on a relationship when it becomes inconvenient or too much work.

Marriage is from God, and the union is worth fighting for. As pastor and author John Piper says, "A glimpse into the magnificence of marriage comes from seeing in God's word that God himself is the great doer. Marriage is his doing. It is from him and through him." 1

Remembering God's design for marriage will benefit your teens. They need to hear these Scriptural teachings as seeds planted ready to bloom if they decide to get married one day. But even more profound is seeing it displayed.

That doesn't mean striving to exemplify a perfect marriage. That doesn't exist. Your kids will benefit from seeing what it looks like for a man and woman to value marriage as a gift from God and so commit to it faithfully instead of giving it your mere leftovers of time and energy.

Pray For Your Spouse and Worship Together

Be on your knees every day for your relationship, and in doing so, you will naturally prioritize your marriage. Think of how easy it is to neglect this, especially in the teen years. Our teenagers can take a toll on us spiritually and emotionally! As a result, we easily forget to pray just as fervently for the partner God has given us.

When we pray for the vitality of our marriages, our heart softens towards our spouse. Just like anything we bring to the throne of God, that spouse becomes a priority. Our teens need us to function as unified partners; praying for each other will contribute to that oneness.

Equally important is worshipping together on a consistent basis. When our marriages are woven into our extended church family, we have natural accountability and encouragement from the people of God. This is how God intended for his bride to function. This might mean turning down an activity in order to choose worship, but making church attendance a priority can strengthen your marriage and positively affect your teens' understanding of the role of the church in their own future family.

Pursue Each Other

There is no busier time than the tween and teen stage. Life is beautifully full and abundantly active. But it can also be incredibly draining. If every bit of your time and energy is spent on your kids, there is no doubt your marriage will suffer. Your teens need to see you making active decisions to pursue each other, and they will ultimately reap the benefits from your connectedness.

This might mean not going to one of the kids' games to reconnect simply because you cannot find another time. Pursuing each other might look like giving 30 minutes of uninterrupted time (put those phones away!) with the purpose of being intentionally attentive. Don't simply talk about the kids but talk purposefully about how each other is doing emotionally and spiritually.

And have fun together! If you had the privilege of watching parents enjoy each other, you know the positive impact it can have on a teenager. Splurge on a date night and visit your favorite restaurant. Cook together if you both enjoy it. Sneak away for an afternoon matinee. Play a game or do a puzzle. Don't compare your pursuit with another couple but find what works best for you and your spouse to intentionally enjoy each other. Not only will your marriage strengthen, but your children will learn from your outward affection. Ultimately, our hope for our marriages is not in one single way to prioritize it. Our hope is in our covenant-keeping God who never breaks his promises. Trust in his faithfulness. He covers you with his grace when you mess up in your marriage, he sustains you in the challenging seasons, and he kindly reveals ways to strengthen and prioritize your relationship even amid the busy days of child-rearing.

1. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/staying-married-is-not-about-staying-in-love>

<https://rootedministry.com/authors/katie-polski/>