

OCTOBER 2024

ZION YOUTH NEWS



HS Youth Group Meetings- October

Our October meetings will be October 2nd and 16th. See the full schedule on the website shawanozion.org/youth

Fall Kickoff Weekend- Sept 7-8

Thank you to all who helped make the Fall Kickoff a great success! The congregation loved seeing the Youth participate in service and hearing about the trip. There's already a lot of buzz about the next trip in students and the congregation! Thank you to Karen Preston for the wonderful Gumbo.



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Saints and Servants- Sept 22nd - Oct 13

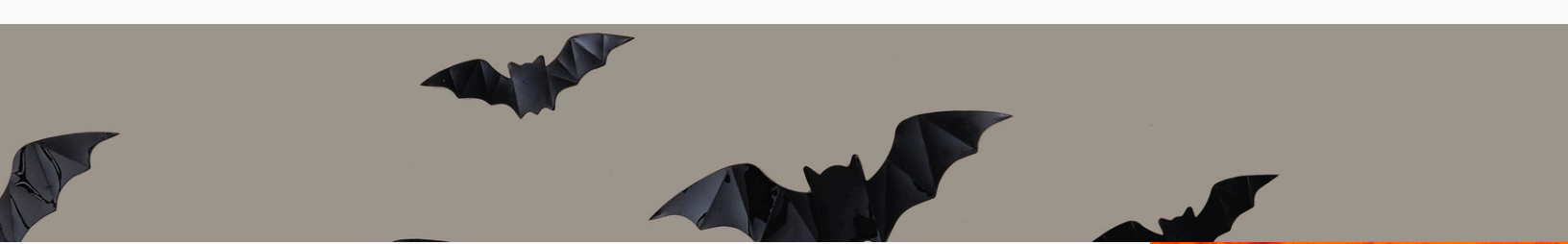
9th grade Confirmation students will meet Sunday Sept 22 at 5pm for the beginning of Saints and Servants. Students are to bring their Confirmation Mentors. These meetings will be Sunday, Sept 22, Sept 29th, Oct 6 and Oct 13.

Confirmation- October 27

9th grade Confirmation students will be Confirmed during the 10:30 service on October 27th. Confirmands are asked to be at church by 9:30 a.m. for individual and a group picture as well as a reception in your honor!

"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



Trunk or Treat- October 18

We will have a “trunk” at the Trunk or Treat event at the Fairgrounds on October 18 from 5-8pm. If you’re interested in helping contact Kristin.

Halloween Event- October 30

Mark Your Calendars- The High School Youth group and the Confirmation students will be planning Halloween events on October 30. We encourage parents to join!

Seeking Mentors and other Volunteers

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

Youth Lounge - Wish List

There are a few things we would like to make our Youth Lounge truly a space for the teens. If you have any of these items you’d like to donate- please contact Kristin or bring them to the church office.

- Mini/ Dorm size fridge
- Bean Bag chairs
- Small loveseats or chairs (cushioned/ padded)

“Support Our Youth” Calendar

Calendar is up on the Youth Bulletin Board by room 101. Support your fellow youth group members! If you want to be included in the calendar- please send your sport or activity to Kristin.

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, 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!

October at a Glance

Oct 2- Youth Group Confirmation

Oct 6- Saints & Servants 5pm

Oct 9- HS Bible Study Confirmation

Oct 13- Saints & Servants 5pm

Oct 16- Youth Group Confirmation

Oct 18- Trunk or Treat 5-8pm

Oct 24- HS Bible Study Confirmation

Oct 27- Confirmation 10:30

Oct 30- Halloween Event



Parent's Corner



When You Don't Like Your Teen's Friends: A Parent's Guide - [Katie Polski](#) | September 12, 2024

Shel Silverstein wrote a little poem about friendship that goes like this:

"I've discovered a way to stay friends forever—There's really nothing to it. I simply tell you what to do and you do it!"

I thought of this poem when a fellow mom recently described one of her teen's friends: "She expects my daughter to do what she wants when she wants it. I don't like my kid's friend!"

I uttered this same sentiment to my husband often during our teen-raising years. Whether it's a friend we deem bossy, manipulative, or just plain mean, there are many reasons parents might not like their kid's friend.

Especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, teens long for friendship, and this is a positive thing. Data is clear from both Christian and secular perspectives that interacting with friends is critical for teens who live in a screen-centric world. So, what do we parents do, then, when we want to encourage friendships, but our teen hangs around someone we don't like? Take heart, parents. Amid the complexities of friendships, remember that the ultimate friendship we can offer our teens is rooted in Christ's love. Jesus, our perfect friend, gave his life for us (Jn. 15:13). It's his sacrificial love that is the foundation for all relationships, and when we embrace this gospel truth, we can better instill in our teens the importance of seeking friendships that reflect Christ's love. No friendship is perfect, but through Christ and his Word, we find the wisdom to help our teens navigate the messiness of relationships.

Three Biblical Principles on Friendship Our Teens Need to Know

Thankfully, Scripture isn't ambiguous when it comes to friendship. The book of Proverbs in particular is teeming with advice about friendship. Here are three key principles that summarize many of its passages:

Biblical Principle One: Your friends will shape you

Proverbs 1:8-19 urges a son to pay close attention to his parents' wise words regarding the company he chooses to be around. If bad company tempts you, flee.

Story after story throughout history proves that the people you surround yourself with undoubtedly shape the person you become. Even the secular world affirms this Biblical principle. Successful entrepreneur and author Jim Rohn once said, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." Remind your teen that the people they spend the most time with will influence them, so it's important to choose friends wisely.

Biblical Principle Two: Sweet friendship refreshes the soul, but the fool brings harm.

Proverbs 27:9 states that a virtuous friendship makes a heart glad, like smelling something so pleasant that it puts an immediate smile on your face. According to Proverbs, these kinds of friends offer wisdom, give godly counsel, and listen well. Encourage your teens to seek such friendships!

Conversely, Proverbs mentions the company of "the fool" over 70 times. If your teen's friends are primarily those whom the Bible deems foolish, harm will follow. According to the Proverbs, these friends are short-tempered, hate to listen, and seek to pick fights (Proverbs. 12:6; 18:12; 20:3)

Parent's Corner



When You Don't Like Your Teen's Friends: A Parent's Guide - CONTINUED

Biblical Principle Three: Our closest friends should be followers of Christ

We can't be a light in a dark world unless we have friends who don't know Christ. Jesus himself was a friend of unbelievers (Luke 7:34). It's easy to either instill fear in our teens by talking about unbelievers as people they should avoid, or to instill pride by talking about unbelievers as ones who are less worthy than we are of God's grace and mercy. Encourage your teens to have some friends who don't know Jesus so they can spread the gospel's light.

With that said, it's essential that our teens understand that our closest friends should anchor us in Scripture and push us to live for Jesus. It's tough to live according to the principles in the Bible if our closest friends do not live by what it says.

Five Practical Principles for Parents When You Don't Like Your Teen's Friends

Along with the Scriptural principles, I've gleaned practical principles from other parents over the years. These may be helpful when you find yourself uttering the all-too-common words: "I don't like my kid's friend!"

1. **Be clear about what you dislike.** Is your dislike based on something that is clearly not good for your teen, or is it for a more personal reason? In other words, according to Scripture, is the friend exemplifying foolish behavior, or is it that you just don't like their personality? This is difficult to discern, but the Holy Spirit will bring clarity when you prayerfully ask for wisdom regarding whether what you dislike is justified.
2. **Avoid criticizing your teen's friend.** Often, criticizing your teenager's friend will make your teen feel like you're criticizing them. When this happens, you'll be met with defensiveness, and your teen will likely resist whatever advice may follow.
3. **Ask questions.** Listen well – without interruption – and then follow with questions. These questions can help your teen discern if this friendship is one that truly refreshes the soul or not. If your teen describes the kind of friend in Shel Silverstein's poem, ask them about it: how does she make you feel when she talks to you that way? Other questions such as: Tell me what you like about him, or do you ever feel pressured to dress like her? Can help your teen verbally process some potential issues without feeling immediately criticized by your strong opinion.
4. **Keep your teen's friends close.** This may seem counterintuitive, but if your teen enjoys a friend you don't like, have them over a few times. Usually, one of two things will occur. Either you will notice some positive traits that provide a fuller picture of the friendship, or you may observe some negative behavior. It is much easier to talk with our teens about what we have seen than to convince them of necessary boundaries based on information we've merely heard.
5. **Pray for your teens and their friends.** Our natural reaction as parents is to set clear and strict boundaries between our teens and the friends they like. In more extreme cases, this may be necessary. But it's often very hard to control our teens' interactions with their friends. Whether at school, youth group, or just hanging out with people on a Friday night, they will likely interact with people we don't like.

What's most helpful is to keep the dialogue open and pray. Pray that your teen will lend an ear to what the Bible says about friendships, and pray often for your teen's friends. Ask the Lord to surround your child now and in the future with friends who will sharpen their faith and point them to Jesus.

Seek Jesus when you struggle with your teen's friend and remember that nothing can separate your teen from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39). Jesus is at work in any and every situation, including our teens' friendships.

<https://rootedministry.com/when-you-dont-like-your-teens-friends-a-parents-guide/>

HS Youth Group 24-25 Schedule

September

11 Youth Group
18 Bible Study
25 Youth Group

October

2 Youth Group
9 Bible Study
16 Youth Group
23 Bible Study
30 EVENT TBD

November

6 Youth Group
13 Bible Study
20 Youth Group
27 Happy Thanksgiving

December

4 Youth Group
11 Bible Study
18 Youth Group
25 Merry Christmas

January

1 No Class
8 Bible Study
15 Youth Group
22 Bible Study
29 Event TBD

February

5 Youth Group
12 Bible Study
19 Youth Group
26 Bible Study

March

5 Ash Wednesday/ Youth Group
12 Lent Service/ Bible Study
19 Lent Service/ Youth Group
26 Lent Service / No Class
(Spring break)

April

2 Lent Service/ Youth Group
9 Lent Service/ Bible Study
16 Lent Service/ Youth Group
23 Bible Study
30 EVENT TBD

May

7 Youth Group
14 Last Class/ Bible Study

Summer 2025

TBD Service/Mission Trip
TBD Celebration Fellowship Trip