

Positive Concepts

The official Youth Ministry newsletter of Anderson First UMC

What is Going On?

We have a great group of teenagers at Anderson First who are growing, learning, and wanting to make a difference. Most importantly, they want to know more about Jesus and how his teachings impact, and apply to, their lives. It makes me want to be more committed to this Youth Ministry, and this church, every day.

The theme for this year in ministry is “Renew Your Mind.” It comes from Romans 12:2, which reads, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV) I’ve been telling the youth, “If you want to change so you are more like Jesus, then you have to change the way you think about things and approach things.” Some questions I always ask to tie things into the theme are, “What are you like when it comes to this topic? How can you renew your mind so you can transform into what you want to be like? What small change are you going to make this week?”

In January, we focused on boldness and loyalty. As followers of Jesus, there are times when we need to be bold so we can have a positive impact on someone’s life. Being bold can be something as simple as asking a friend about his or her parents divorcing. What are you like when it comes to being bold? How can you renew your mind so you can be bolder? Do something bold this week that leads to a positive effect on someone else. It can be something small, but make some sort of change.

Loyalty is a virtue all followers of Christ should strive to achieve. What has made your long-lasting friendships successful? Are there any people out there who you used to be friends with, but aren’t any more? What led to those friendships falling out? The story of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel is an excellent story showcasing loyalty to a friend. When Jonathan’s father, Saul, was trying to kill David, Jonathan was willing to do anything David wanted to help save his life. Jonathan eventually helped David escape. Often times, when the newness of a relationship wears off and things start to get heavy, we are quick to stop putting effort into that relationship.

If we commit ourselves to certain friends who mean a lot to us, we can find it easier to commit to God, and in some small way we are showing loyalty to Him via our loyalty to our friend. What are you like when it comes to being loyal? What small change can you make this week to exhibit more loyalty? Determine what friends of yours mean the most to you, let them know how much they mean to you, and let them know you will stick with them no matter what.

I want to use this last bit of space I have to remind you about the new format for the newsletter. There is a brand new blog version of *Positive Concepts*! Check out some of the articles at: positiveconcepts.wordpress.com/. I strongly encourage you to enter your email in the box in the lower-right. All of the updates will then be sent directly to your e-mail inbox, so you don’t have to check every day if something new has been added.

Well, that’s it!

Upcoming Events

Super Bowl Party

The Super Bowl is on February 5th this year. We are going to have a party and watch it together! We'll be upstairs in the youth room (that seemed to work well last year). There will be tons of food (a 6-foot sub from Subway!), and of course an awesome football game to watch. The game starts at 6:30 P.M., so show up at 6 for pregame fun! Bring a drink and your favorite snack.

Captivating the Wild Heart

My wife, Kristina, and I are going to work together to split up the genders and have some quality time with each of them. The guys will talk about issues raised in the book Wild at Heart by John Eldredge, and the girls will do the same thing using the book Captivating by Stasi Eldredge. Both of these books had a big impact on our respective lives, and we thought it would be great to share the insights we gained through reading these books (before you all have to learn the hard way). No extra reading will be necessary, but everyone will get a copy of each book to read on their own time. This will all take place during our normal youth time on Sunday nights for a few weeks starting February 12. Make sure you come and invite your friends to come as well!



30 Hour Famine

The 30 Hour Famine is an overnight event that is designed to give people a small taste of what it would be like to live in an impoverished community. We go 30 hours without eating (drinking juice is ok, though), while at the same time play games, watch videos, and have discussions that help us get a glimpse of what these people go through on a day to day basis. The goal is not only to educate, but to make a difference. Part of the 30 hours involves participating in community service, and we collect money in the months leading up to the 30 Hour Famine, which World Vision (the organization coordinating this event nation-wide) will use to help out these needy communities. Our group goal this year is \$360.



The event itself will be on Friday, February 24 – Saturday, February 25. Show up at 6:00 P.M. on Friday. We'll be staying overnight at the church and will be finished by 6:00 P.M. on Saturday. Make sure you bring a signed consent form! If you are interested in helping raise money, contact Jake Brooks. Also, you can donate at this website: <http://support.worldvision.org/goto/andersonfirstumc>

Gym Games

Dodgeball, Matball, Knockout. You know all of those great games you always want to play in P.E., but your teacher always wants you to run or do pushups or something lame

like that? Well, now you can come to a place where you can play all of those awesome games for hours on end! On March 16, we are going to hang out in the gym and play those awesome gym games all night. I call it “Gym Games.” We’ll go from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. (or until everyone gets too tired and passes out). Don’t worry; there will be no locker rooms for this one.

CIY: Move

Taken from the CIY (Christ in Youth) website:
 “Located on college campuses across the nation, Move provides a program for 25,000 high school students every summer. Students are challenged through intense, interactive worship, dynamic preaching, small group study, and community-building. Students at MOVE not only learn and worship together but also spend quality time with their church youth group, discovering ways that God will use them to be a greater help to the world.”



We are attending CIY: Move this summer! It’s at Anderson University, so travel is not a problem, and it’s the week of June 11-15. The cost is \$274, but you only have to pay \$100! The deadline to sign up is April 11th. You must be in high school (or have just graduated high school) to attend. You can check out the event online here: <http://www.ciy.com/move>. Contact Jake at brooksjm08@gmail.com to sign up (or talk to him in person).

That Thing

The time for signing up to attend That Thing is upon us! What is That Thing? I will tell you! That Thing is a Sr. High event that immerses attendees in a life lived for God. The dynamic speakers, awesome dramas, and passion-filled worship will leave a lasting impact on anyone who attends. Plus, there is paintball... and water tubing! This year we are going the week of July 1-6. Please sign up as soon as you can! We have an extremely large group going this year, so the sooner we get spots filled, the better. The cost is about \$250, but the church is helping pay for it, so you only have to pay \$100! The deadline to sign up is May 1st. Contact Jake to reserve your spot!

- There is an ALT meeting on February 12 at 3:30 P.M., and a YLT meeting on February 12 at 7:15 P.M.
- The All-Church Birthday Party is on February 25th at 6:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. That’s right – immediately after the 30 Hour Famine!
- We have Community Café on March 11. Show up at 3 P.M. at the church to help out.

Sunday night youth is every Sunday night (unless otherwise noted) from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. in the youth area. Free food!

Thanks for reading! Check out more of the newsletter at
<http://positiveconcepts.wordpress.com>

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an e-mail to brooksjm08@gmail.com