

Iron Pillars 2023/24

Parent Packet

What do we do & Why do we do it

What We Do

Here at Iron Pillars Youth Ministry we aim at teaching the students of our community who God is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him. We do that in a number of ways. First, we teach them the Bible each week in a fun and relevant way so they can understand what God says. Second, we believe in building relationships with them through small group discussion and prayer. We have 8 adults who commit every Friday night to getting to know and love the students of this community through hanging out and talking, playing games, and by praying with and for them.

Why We Do What We Do

Today's culture is void of any meaning that comes from knowing the God of the Bible. Image and appearance have replaced character and morality, leaving the human existence void of anything of substance. The love of this world has replaced a love of God, resulting in a generation that pursues material prosperity and physical appearance over spiritual discernment. The present culture has greater physical health, prosperity, and possessions, but they also have greater degrees of depression, anxiety, and broken relationships. While the external condition of America continues to prosper, the internal condition continues to be broken. We know that it is only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that this internal brokenness can be healed and restored to its intended condition.

Our Goal

Our goal is to equip our students to stand spiritually strong at home, school, and play. Our desire is to lay a strong spiritual foundation, so by the time they graduate they will be ready to go.

What to Expect

What could your child expect?

Each student who attends our ministry will find a very safe, warm, and welcoming environment. Each child is loved and cared for equally. As they walk through our youth room doors the first thing that will appeal to their senses is the smell of popcorn. Every week there is no shortage of snacks! We also provide dinner food every Friday night. Throughout the year parents are encouraged to pick a date to provide food for our students, and the kids love it. The next thing that appeals to their senses is the games. We have an area for hockey, dodge ball, and wall ball. We also have foosball, ping-pong, and air hockey tables. When the weather is nice we use our field for ultimate frisbee, wiffleball, and kickball.

Even though those are usually the things our students are drawn to, in time they will come to find out that we are about so much more than simply having fun. Every Friday night we have a time of worship and Bible study. We start out in a large group where the lesson for the night is presented, and then they break into small groups based on age and gender. All of our lessons this year are based on the theme, "What We Believe." We know that what we believe forms the foundation for our lives. In addition to the large and small group lessons each Friday night, there are other opportunities for the students to learn and grow, such as Bible studies before youth group starts, and the Winter Retreat.

We understand the importance of having good Christian friends and that's why we provide many opportunities outside of regular youth group for fellowship and fun. Here are a few examples: Fun Nights, Group Nights, Hayride, Lockin, Retreat, Ice Skating, Paintball, and more.

Lastly, we teach our students that, while this youth ministry is for them, it's not all about them. Right from the start we teach them the importance of service in this community, in other communities, in our church, and around the world. Here are a few examples: Sr. High prays for a Jr. High student, we take an offering every month for a child in Haiti, we take a monthly offering for Star of Hope, GW Fundraiser, Star of Hope, Leaf Raking, Center for Food Action, a day of service at FTC, Harvest Party, Kid's Night, Pregnancy Resource Center, Summer Missions Trip, Summer Program, VBS, Youth Sunday, and more.

What could you expect?

As a parent of a child in our youth program you can expect to be informed on everything we do. Your partnership in this ministry is vital, since we can only do so much. We only have them one night a week, but you have them always. For this reason I send weekly emails, which includes the lesson, a look at what's coming up, and other miscellaneous things. If an event is coming up, I email the specifics at least 5 days in advance. If your child's behavior is out of line, and worthy of a call, I call. The line of communication isn't only one way. Please email me or call the church office if you have any questions.

Code of Conduct/Our Policies

Print Name Clearly: _____

1. I agree to respect the rights and property of others. I understand that neither vandalism nor stealing will be tolerated. Financial obligations that result from such behavior will be the sole responsibility of my family and myself.
2. I agree to respect adult leaders and other participants.
3. I agree to demonstrate Christian values by my language and behavior.
4. I agree not to possess any drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, matches, lighters, knives, or any other items that could endanger people, pets, wildlife, or property.
5. I agree to dress appropriately. I understand that this prohibits short shorts, tank tops, exposed midriffs, any clothing that has any reference to tobacco or alcohol products including insignias or advertisements.
6. I will not leave an event, the church building, or a designated area unless an adult leader grants permission.
7. I will not use my cell phone or any other electronic devices during the large and small group lessons.
8. I will be open to building new relationships with peers and adult leaders.
9. I will not show any public displays of affection (PDA). This includes, but is not limited to kissing, hugging, holding hands, and cuddling.

I understand the need to agree to the above items. I realize and agree that if I do not abide by these rules, I may lose the privilege of attending a scheduled activity, or may be sent home at the discretion of an adult leader. I will take responsibility for all consequences of my behavior.

I, as a participant agree to abide by these guidelines.

_____ Signature _____ Date

I, as a parent/guardian of this participant, agree to these guidelines for my teen.

_____ Signature _____ Date

Our Procedures

If your child fails to abide by our policies

1. For the first incident, I sit them down, give them a warning, and explain the following procedures.
2. If it happens again, I call home and inform you about what's been going on
3. If it continues to happen after that, you and your child sit in my office and I explain that they cannot come to youth group or any of its activities for 2 weeks. After the 2 weeks are up they are free to return, but not without confessing and repenting.

**Iron Pillars Youth Ministry
Parental Permission Slip**

My child, _____ has my permission to participate with our youth group for events that take place outside of Fardale Trinity Church during the 2023/2024 school year. This includes Sr. High nights out, Hayride, Outreaches, Ice Skating, Paintball, Group Nights, and more. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Fardale Trinity Church and its officers, employees, and volunteer staff from any liability. I accept responsibility for any medical expenses as a result of any such injury sustained during any of these activities or trips.

_____ Signature _____ Date



Registration Card

Student's Name _____	Grade _____
Address _____	Date of Birth _____
City _____	Zip Code _____
School _____	
Home Phone _____	Student's Cell _____
Parent's Name _____	Parent's Cell _____
Parent's Email _____	

ATTENTION ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS

Want to be part of the VBS Team?
(August 5th - 9th, 2024)
Want to come on our Trips?

In order to go on our trips, serve in the Summer Program, or be a part of the VBS Team in 2024:

1. You must attend Friday Night Youth Group regularly during the 2023-2024 school year (We define regularly as 1/2 of the Friday nights where we take attendance) or attend Sunday School and Sunday Service regularly (We define regularly as every Sunday unless sick or out of town).
2. You must participate in the three-week summer youth program in which we all work together drawing and coloring the murals and building the sets in the classrooms.
3. You must demonstrate Christ-like character and conduct in your life and relationships here at youth group, at your school, and in your home.
4. Pastor Mike might grant exceptions to this policy in extenuating circumstances.

If you want to be part of the team, then you need to make a commitment to attend, and abide by our policies.

Dear Family and Friends of Fardale Trinity Church:

Fardale Trinity Church's Youth Ministry continues to be a blessing to many people in our community. We have a desire to teach our teens about God, who He is, and how they can live for Him everyday. What began as a small gathering of 5 teenagers back in 1998, has grown to around 20 teenagers today. Our teens look forward to our ministry where they feel welcomed, accepted, and loved. Thank you for your part in getting them here every Friday night.

In addition to the worship, fellowship, Bible lesson, and hangout every Friday night, we offer so much for your son/daughter throughout the year. There are some things that we do that we ask them to pay for, but many of our events are of no cost. Our Bonfire, Lockin, Jr/Sr High Fun Nights, Guys/Girls Fun Nights, Youthie Awards Night, and Graduation Party are just a few of the fun things we offer with no cost.

We know that in order for this ministry to be a success we need the working of the Holy Spirit in and through us. Without the working of the Holy Spirit, all of our efforts fall short. We also know that we need your help, and that is why I'm writing this letter. First, we need your prayer. Please pray for our leaders and our children, that God would do a special work in their lives. Second, we are looking for financial support for our ministry. Anything you'd be able to give would be a huge blessing and it would help fund our ministry for this 2023/2024 school year.

If you are willing/able to give in any way, please make a check payable to Fardale Trinity Church and write "Youth Ministry" on the memo line. You can mail your support to 73 Chapel Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Thank you in advance for your partnership in this ministry!

Serving Him Together,

Michael Byrne
Associate Pastor
Fardale Trinity Church
73 Chapel Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-825-1823