



April 20, 2016

Dear Parents,

As the parent of a new 6th grader, welcome to the Journey Mennonite Church student ministries! To make things easier we go by Journey Youth. Journey Youth exists to help students learn what it means to follow Christ as we worship, connect, grow and serve together. We seek to do this in a fun, friendly, safe, authentic and relevant environment.

Our **Small Groups** offer a chance for youth to connect with caring adults and grow in Christ. They will learn about what it means to follow Jesus. We do this through the study of Scripture and discussion on how it relates and speaks to the everyday life that your child is living. At Journey@South Hutch, these groups meet on Sunday morning during 2nd service at 9:45 am. Junior high girls meet in room 13 and the boys meet in room 11. Both rooms are located in the Activity Center. At Journey@Yoder our small groups meet on Wednesday night from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm and are led by Mark Horst. They are currently meeting at the Unruh's barn.

On Sunday nights our junior high ministry meets at the Yoder campus. We meet from 6pm-7:30pm and play games, get to know each other, spend time worshiping and have a short lesson. These evenings are a perfect opportunity for your student to invite a friend! On Sunday evenings we provide transportation from South Hutch to Yoder. If you would like to take advantage of that, have your student to the South Hutch campus at 5:30pm. They stay through high school youth group and then return at 8:45. Of course, you can come pick up your student at the Yoder campus if that works best! From 7:30-8:30 there is a game room open to junior high students to hang out, play ping pong, video games and connect with their small group leaders.

Your kids are always encouraged to bring friends to any event. We strive to have a welcoming and fun atmosphere for students whether they have grown up in church or this next week is their first time ever. We have great volunteers helping with all of these ministries, but we are always looking for more! If you have any interest in helping out with any youth ministry activities, let me know!

Your student is invited to start attending youth events on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This will start with Sunday evening activities while we break from small groups in June. To stay up to date with activities, events and whatever else, there are a few places to connect:

1. The Journey Youth facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/journeymennoniteyouth>
2. Twitter- <https://twitter.com/JourneyYouthKS>
3. The church website- <http://journeymennonite.org/youth/> On the church website you can sign up for Parent emails which will give information on upcoming events and current Sunday night teaching series.

It is my prayer that the student ministry at JMC is here to assist and support you in your job as a parent, grandparent, or guardian. With this in mind, I've included a small book for you. Whether you are approaching your first foray into teenager-dom or have been at it for a while, it is always an adventure! I hope this little book gives you some practical ideas as you parent your child(ren) toward Christ. Please feel free to call, email, or stop by the church office if you ever have any questions, comments, concerns or especially if you need prayer.

For Christ and his kingdom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Blasdel".

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