

Dear FCC Parent and/or Student

As we plan for re-gathering our students to resume student ministry activities we wanted to try and address some common questions you might have. With the questions and answers listed below, we hope you understand that your child's safety has been thoroughly thought out and precautions have been put in place. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to call the church office at 1-217-323-1677 or call my cellphone at 1-217-971-2530. We ask that you be patient and understanding throughout this new chapter in our FCC Student Ministry as we are all anxious to get back together. This time in our lives is definitely new territory and we are trying our very best to help things run as smoothly as possible.

What age group is this youth ministry for?

Our Jr. High youth ministry is for any 6th through 8th grader. If your child is entering the 6th grade this coming school year they are welcome to join us! Our High School youth ministry is for all 9th-12th grader. If your child is entering 9th grade this year they will be attending the high school youth activities this summer!

When will we begin having FCC Student Ministry activities again?

We will start having youth meetings again on Wednesday, June 17th (this is for all Jr/Sr High). On this night we will explain to our students what the summer activities will look like and encourage parents to bring your student in so we can get your contact information in case we would need to get ahold of you. This summer we will be splitting our youth nights into Jr High and High School. June 24th will be our first night of Jr High only activities and June 28th will be the first night of High School only activities. Our intentions are to try and keep all of our students as safe as possible during this time. We believe that by splitting Jr. High and Senior High we are better able to regulate activities while making our time valuable and intentional.

What will the student ministry program look like during the summer?

Typically, our summers are geared more toward activities and events (swimming, theme parks, ball games, etc.) but this year will consist of more activities here at the church. If restrictions start to ease and swimming pools and theme parks open back up, we will look into how to plan some events at these places in a safe manner.

How long would a typical night of youth group last?

Wednesday nights and Sunday nights will be scheduled from 7pm-8pm. The Illinois Department of Public Health has advised keeping meeting times to an hour or less. As restrictions lessen, we can always re-evaluate our program and make adjustments if need be. To ensure that we can get the youth facility thoroughly cleaned again after our meeting time is up, we ask that your student be picked up no later than 8:15.

Will any food or drink be provided?

All snacks will be in sealed individual bags and handed out by an adult wearing gloves. Drinks will be in bottles and are not to be shared with anyone else. Students are welcome to bring their own drinks as well but they must be in a bottle.

Should we invite our friends to come with us?

Absolutely! This year has been tough on all of us. We believe kids, not just adults, are searching for hope and peace in a troubling time such as this. We want to try to give kids the hope and peace that is only found through Jesus Christ. There is no better place that they could be than with their friends at youth group!

What if our friends have had the virus or have been knowingly around someone with the virus?

We understand that this is a situation that is very possible. We are asking that if anyone has knowingly had the virus or been around someone with the virus that you wait a couple weeks before attending youth group again. As much as we cannot wait to have you back, we want to make sure we are courteous to others and keep everyone as safe as possible.

What if I do not have the virus but have not been feeling well?

We understand that there might be some who have allergies, summer colds, or maybe even a slight temperature. We will not be taking temperatures at the door so we are asking our students and parents to police themselves by taking your temp before coming to youth group. Please use your best judgement and be mindful of others before attending any youth activities!

Will the youth space be cleaned and sanitized regularly?

Yes! The youth room will be cleaned before arrival and cleaned immediately following youth group. Kids will be asked to wash their hands when entering and hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the meeting time for anyone wanting to use some.

Will social distancing be required?

We know students will be excited to see friends they might not have seen in a while (we are excited too), but we are asking them to be respectful and courteous to the other kids regarding handshakes, hugs, and high fives. We are asking that during the message and worship time they sit in the seat already set up for them. This allows them to sit at a safe distance while still being part of the group during this interaction time. Face masks will not be required, but anyone that feels more comfortable wearing one is welcome to do so! We realize there are a lot of different opinions about the safety measures and guidelines that have been laid out for us, so we are asking that you please be patient and supportive as much as possible at this time.

Lastly, what happens if a student or family member of a student test positive for the virus?

We will be keeping records every week of who exactly is in and out of our building. This allows for us to look back and see who we would need to contact if need be. This is why it is so important that we have a phone number to contact you. We asking that when you drop your student off for a youth meeting to please come inside and leave a current, working phone number we can reach you at in case someone becomes ill.