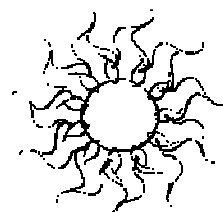
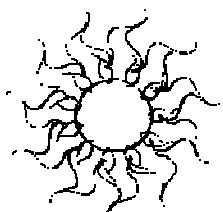


YOUTH NEWS

Summer is here! Let the fun and games begin!



Recently I was searching through the *Oxford Companion to the Bible* (a gift to me from my confirmation mentor when I was a high school freshman), and came across the word “miracle.” “A miracle,” according to this source, “is an extraordinary event, perceived to be the result of the direct, purposeful action of a god or the agent of a god” (519). In the Bible there are several types of miracles, two of which are confirmatory and healing. God shows choice and support of certain individuals or groups through confirmatory miracles. Consider Sarah’s giving birth to Isaac after years of infertility in Genesis 18; this is a confirming sign that a covenant will be established between God and the people. Healing miracles are just that, Jesus tells a paralyzed man to get up and walk, his faith has made him well; he raised Lazarus from the dead as well as healing the Synagogue leader’s daughter (Mat 9).

It seems to me that these are the miracles we are in need of, especially as *we* are *all* experiencing so much change. Change is not easy and through it forgetting that God is with us and that we are in this together is easy. I know that these past few years have been extremely difficult for this church, youth especially so. You saw changes in pastoral leadership and in that lost someone you love and hold in high regard, Woody, who is, indeed, a great and brilliant man. You aged and matured, lost and gained friends at school, you entered new schools, received new privileges and responsibilities at home. Some of you, maybe, lost a grandparent or two or you experienced a divorce between your parents or a remarriage for one or both of them. Whatever change you experience in your life, it is not easy, I know that I sometimes want to run around in circles screaming because of the change I am living through. When experiencing change it is important to remember that **you, we, are not alone. We have each other.**

Miracles happened in the lives of those we remember from the Bible because they had faith. In the midst of change God was with them and changed their lives because they believed. They believed in God and they believed in each other. Well, I believe in you and I have hope in you. I believe that together we can create an amazing youth group program that holds onto the tradition of service and fun and games that you all love so much. I believe in you because your spirit is beginning to shine when we interact together—when I meet with you as individuals, or when we are on outings together (particularly when we have a bucket of water in our hands). Let’s keep this spirit moving, come enjoy more water games, more outdoor activities, more fun conversations this summer and let’s get to know each other, let’s have faith in each other and in God that together we can create our own UCC Keene Youth Group miracle.

Middle School Summer Events

July 11th—12th Overnight, Hike and Swimming
July 7th+28th; PIZZA, MOVIE
August 25th AND GAMES
August 15th—16th Overnight and family mission project

WEDNESDAYS WEEKLY WITH STACEY

Join me for a weekly informal gathering full of laughter, fun and snacks. From 2pm until 3:30pm. If you need a ride call me or ask someone’s parent to bring you. Our first meeting will be June 25th in my office, between Ann’s and Gordon’s. Together, we will identify a space to gather in on a more permanent basis.

Sr. High Summer Events

July 18th—19th Overnight, Sunrise Hike, ice cream and swimming
August 2nd Soulfest at Gunstock
August 15th Family mission project

WEDNESDAYS WEEKLY WITH STACEY

Join me for a weekly informal gathering for the purpose of laughing together and sharing summer news. We will meet from 4pm until 5:30pm. For our first gathering, come to my office. We will move, if necessary, and identify a more permanent gathering space and plan. If you need a ride, contact me, and if you need to come late, please do. Our first meeting is June 25th. I look forward to seeing you!

PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FAMILY MISSION DAY PLANS! THERE WILL BE A GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

IF YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS FOR SUMMER EVENTS PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

CONTACT ME:

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