



**ORANGE CITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Youth Ministry Handbook**

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Welcome and Vision

Welcome to Connect Student Ministry, a ministry for 6-12th graders of Orange City United Methodist Church in Orange City, Fl. This handbook is designed to inform you of this vital ministry!

Children and Youth Ministry Mission:

We exist to provide a place where kids can feel accepted, spend time with others and learn what it means to be a follower of Christ by learning the Bible and having opportunities to live out their faith.

What we are:

We are a youth program that wants to assist families in producing Christ-like young people. We want to provide young people with the opportunity to find out who they are in Christ and who God wants them to be.

What we are not:

We are not your child's parent. We will never try to take your place and trust that you will never try to give it to us. We are here to support you in this great responsibility. We are also not babysitters. Our Youth Ministry aims to be fun and spiritual, two things that we believe are not mutually exclusive.

Snapshots

Our Youth Group:

Currently, we have 26 students on our roster attending: Deland Middle, Deland High, River Springs Middle, University High, Deltona Middle, Deltona High and Galaxy Middle.

Meet the Youth Director:

Stephanie Champagne Parks graduated from Stetson University in 2009 with a B.A. in Religious Studies, minors in Music Performance (Voice) and Spanish. She married Thomas (Stetson '09) in July 2011 and came on staff that same month as the Children and Youth Ministries Director. Stephanie also runs a Teen Life Skills Program with the YMCA called Project 396. She enjoys food, singing, crafts, and playing. She enjoys teaching all ages about Christ's grace and mercy.



Volunteers:

Youth Ministry would not be possible without the help of our Adult Volunteers. Our volunteers consist of parents, grandparents, older siblings and students that have graduated from our Youth Ministry Program. They assist in set-up, clean-up, providing and serving refreshments, facilitating small group Bible studies, praying for us, and being an overall mentor to our students. Are you interested in becoming a Youth Ministry Volunteer? Check the back cover for contact information!

Youth Ministry Vision

Here is what we aim to do:

1. **Praise and Worship**- We want to teach the Youth to Worship our God. We encourage them to attend weekly worship services, to sing when we have worship through song on select Wednesday nights and to live a life that pleases God.
2. **Discipleship and Bible Study**- We desire to guide our students towards becoming Christian Disciples. We encourage them through small group Book or Bible Study, Sunday School lessons and Bible Challenges.
3. **Fellowship and Fun**- We know that students experience social pressure. We want to support them by providing a fun and safe space where students can be themselves. This is why we have Wednesday night Midweek, lock-ins, game nights, Summer Camp and other trips.
4. **Ministry and Mission**- We hope to help students discover their Spiritual Gifts and how they can put them into practice. We also have community service opportunities and take an annual mission trip.

Weekly Activities

Sunday School

When: Sundays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am (year-round)

Where: Youth Building (395 E. University Ave)

What to bring: Bible, open heart

Sunday School is when we study God's Word as a group, typically in a large group format with discussion questions, skits or videos. Studies we hope to do this year include: Old Testament people, Essential Questions (Who is God? What is the Bible? Who Am I? What is Prayer? What is Worship?), Sex and Dating, How Jesus shook up the Status Quo (race, status, gender and religious activity) and Lessons from Letters (Paul's letters in the New Testament).

Midweek

When: Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm (year-round)

Where: Youth Building (395 E. University Ave)

What to bring: positive attitude

We come together for snacks, a short devotional and fellowship through games, activities, team building and crafts. Once a month, we have small group study where we split into age/gender groups to discuss a topic led by our Adult Volunteers.

Special Events

Tentative Dates/Costs to Plan For in 2015-2016:

September 11-12th- Night of Joy (\$50/\$100)

October 16-18th- Imprint at WWW Camp (\$80)

November 18th- CSM Family Thanksgiving Dinner

December 16th- CSM Christmas Party

February TBA- RadiusLab (Cost- TBD)

March 23rd- Spring Break Service Blitz (\$5)

April TBA- Youth Sunday

June 8th- Graduation Party

June 20-24th Radius Camp Charlotte (\$200)*

July 18-23rd- WWW Summer Camp (\$420)*

Bimonthly or Quarterly Newsletters will be issued with details and/or changes for the events listed above. Check the Youth Bulletin Board in the lobby of the Sanctuary for permission slips and more information!

*There will be specific fundraising for these trips. Financial Assistance is typically available, just ask!

Youth Group Rules

These are rules that were agreed upon by the Youth Group in 2013 regarding conduct during our weekly meetings. These rules may be updated periodically.

1. No derogatory language or actions towards each other.
2. No unnecessary throwing/bouncing balls indoors.
3. RESPECT adults by giving them your attention; be quiet when an adult is giving instructions.
4. Act your age.
5. When it's praying time, everything STOPS.
6. No use of cell phone during lessons and activities, except when necessary or you have obtained permission
7. Fridge is off-limits unless told to grab something specifically by an adult.
8. WWJD?
9. What happens in Youth Group stays in Youth Group.
10. Repeated violation of these rules could result in removal from activities, lessons, games and/or trips.



Youth Group in 2013

Participation Covenant

These are behavior expectations for Youth Group trips, retreats and conferences that we may attend.

1. Alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, weapons or illegal drugs of any kind are not permitted and will not be tolerated.
2. Language, clothing and attitude should reflect the Christian nature of our gathering and bring positive attention to our group as young leaders.
3. Youth must be in rooms/cabins/sleeping areas in the evenings at Lights Out.
4. No males will be allowed in females' rooms and no females will be allowed in males' rooms at any time during the trip/retreat/experience.
5. Youth are expected to respect each other and all adults.
6. The property of places visited will be respected, and if any damage occurs in any room, the youth in that room will be responsible for paying damages.
7. Wildlife, flowers and trees and other plants are for all to enjoy as they are. Do not disturb them.
8. Youth will not leave the group unless given permission or accompanied by adult leaders. Youth should always travel with at least one other member of the group.
9. All participants are expected to participate and be present and on time for all activities.
10. Violation of safety rules endangering oneself or others will not be permitted.

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification on anything found in this booklet please don't hesitate to contact me using the info found below!

Church Info:

Orange City United Methodist Church
396 E. University Avenue
Orange City, Fl, 32763
386-775-3068

Youth Group Contact Info:

Join our Remind Text Message list:
Students- text @ocumcyouth to 81010
Parents- text @ocumcrents to 81010

Join our Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/CSMYouth

Youth Director Info:

Stephanie (and Thomas) Parks
120 Hibiscus Woods Court, Unit 1B
Deltona, Fl, 32725
cell: 772-418-5705

sparks@ocumc.org ← Send an email to be included on our email list!

