

Calvary

United Methodist Church

YOUth Ministries

Handbook



faithfunandYOUth

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Calvary United Methodist Church UMYF

Our mission is to create the opportunity for youth to gather in the name of Jesus Christ where we offer fellowship with acceptance to all. We praise our loving God, we share issues relevant to today's culture with respect to our faith, we learn more about the Bible and its teachings, and we hope to grow in our relationship with God and each other.

What is Calvary United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship?

It is a ministry for, by, and with the youth of Calvary UMC between 6th grade and 12th grade through the age of 18 years and 9 months. At the discretion of the Youth Director and leaders along with the ministerial staff, exceptions may be made for individuals with special needs. **It includes all activities and ministries in which our youth are participating.**

This Handbook is to help facilitate these ministries in a manner in which each activity remains focused on our goals and our missions while ALL participants and volunteers have a meaningful, fun, and safe time.

The Youth Ministries at CUMC include but are not limited to the following:

- **6th-8th grade Sunday School at 9:20 AM Sunday mornings in Room 207.**
- **High School (grades 9-12) 8:30 – 9:15 opposite weeks from when the youth choir sings Sunday mornings in Room 208.**
- **UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) for grades 6-12 from 6:00-8:00pm most Sunday evenings**
- **Various music groups**
- **4 County Teen Community Bible Study (Tuesday 6:30-9:00pm)**

Keep Informed

- **www.calvary-mt.airy.org click on the link to the youth page Check it out! The Youth Ministries page will have all the information you need for upcoming events and the forms you need to participate.**
- **Facebook Page: Like us at Calvary Mount Airy UMYF**
- **Informational Bulletin Boards in the youth rooms (207 & 208)**
- **Jenn Shipley, Director of Youth Ministries 301-829-0358 x 207**

1 RULE= RESPECT Respect each other. Respect the leaders. Respect the rules. We need to value each other's time, opinion, their importance to the group, as well as the mission of the UMYF.

Being a part of Calvary's UMYF is a privilege. With privileges come responsibilities. Our leaders have dedicated many hours to making it a great experience for EVERYONE involved. We care for ALL of our youth; we want to keep them safe and to be able to be a positive influence in their lives. The rules laid out in this handbook will be in effect for all Calvary UMYF activities. All youth are welcome to take part in all activities and events for their age group. It is the youth's responsibility to follow these rules and any additional requirements that may be needed for certain events.

Your participation can add to everyone's experience or take away from the experience for the group. Please help to ensure everyone's experience is a positive one by following the Code of Conduct.

Discipline Plan:

The following plan will be followed when a youth is not following the Code of Conduct, is not following directions, or is being disrespectful.

- First, a youth leader will remind the youth of the Code of Conduct (previously signed by parents & youth)
- Next, the youth will be separated from the group and talked to about his/her behavior by 2 youth leaders. Better behavioral choices will be discussed and Code of Conduct expectations will be reviewed
- Next, the youth will be removed from the group for a small time (during the current activity/game, etc.)
- *Finally, the parents will be called to come pick up the youth from that activity
- If there is a youth participant that continues to disrupt activities, the Youth Director, along with the Pastor will address the issues with the youth and his/her parents or guardians.

*In the event that safety of a participant was put into jeopardy by inappropriate behavior a parent will be contacted immediately.

Inappropriate Clothing Addendum: Should a Calvary Youth Member attend a youth activity and not be dressed modestly (following the 4B's):

- A youth leader will quietly talk to the youth and discuss the importance of appropriate, modest clothing
- If there is another occurrence, the youth will be asked to either call a parent for a change of clothing or borrow a UMYF T-shirt and/or sweatpants.

While we certainly are not judging our youth's style, dressing immodestly can make other's feel uncomfortable as well as distract other youth from the focus of our activities.

Calvary UMC UMYF Code of Conduct

The Count Down to the Top 10 Ways

- #10 **Appropriate Modest Dress:** Abide by the 4B's (no butts, no breasts, no bellies, no boxers). Please refrain from wearing clothing that is Extreme (extremely tight, extremely low, or contains extremely offensive words and/or pictures)
- #9 **Appropriate Touch:** Please refrain from inappropriate personal contact (kissing, hitting, wrestling etc.)
- #8 **Healthy Choices:** No smoking, drinking alcohol, or using illegal drugs at church activities or prior to arriving. (We pray they will not be a part of your life outside of church as well.)
- #7 **Respectful Uses of Electronics:** NO electronic devices will be used during UMYF activities (cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, CD Players, gaming devices, etc.) Items will be held by the leader if they are being used during activities. You are welcome to bring them and use them only during specific times set by the leaders where their use will not interfere with the activity (traveling to events, lock-ins etc.) *Youth will be expected to adhere to Calvary UMC's Policy regarding electronic communication.* Failure to do so may result in being removed from the youth ministry program.
- #6 **Staying With the Group:** When you are dropped off for an activity, please do not wander through the building, instead report directly to the location of the activity until excused or dismissed by an adult leader. When off-site, do not leave the group without a leader's permission.
- #5 **Positive Language that reflects a Christian Attitude:** Please use only positive language, no using offensive or obscene words or hand gestures. Refrain from name calling, teasing, and making fun of others. Remain an encourager rather than one who ridicules. What starts out as fun can quickly become hurtful.
- #4 **Respecting Our Surroundings:** Take care of our space no matter where the activity takes place; Youth Room, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, a car, a hotel, a retreat center etc. Do not damage or destroy property and clean up after yourselves. All participants are expected to help clean up and put away supplies.
- #3 **Maintain an Open Mind:** Listen to others and Leaders without judging. Have an open mind to people and their stories...that's how we learn more about God, each other, and ourselves.
- #2 **Have Fun:** Try to remain positive, joyful and a smile because we are created and loved by and amazing God!
- #1 **Follow the Greatest Commandment:** Respect and love yourself and each other!

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

A Few Important Things!

Who can Participate: Youth grades 6-12 through the age of 18 years and 9 months. At the discretion of the Youth Director and leaders along with the ministerial staff, exceptions may be made for individuals with special needs.

YOUth Participation Counts: Your excitement, energy, and participation are needed to make our ministries work and to be fun. Come as often as you can and reach out to those that are missing and let them know they are missed! UMYF is a family, a team, one unit; each individual contributing in their own special way (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Worship & Study: God has blessed all of us in many ways. An important part of our faith journey is taking time to worship God and better understand His word. We will have time to do both of these at our activities and lesson nights. However, we GREATLY encourage you to worship on Sunday mornings with your family and friends. We also encourage you to follow up your worship by joining in with a Sunday Morning Youth Class. If you are in town and are not sick and there is not an emergency, we fully expect and WANT you to be here (See first page for times and room assignments)

Serve: We are called to be the hands of God in our communities; to serve our church, our neighbors that live in Mt. Airy, Maryland, the United States, and around the world. Throughout the year there will be opportunities to serve and we want our **YOU**th to participate.

Fundraising: There are times we need to do fundraising to help offset the costs for our retreats, events, and activities. There will also be times when we are fundraising or participating in an activity to help a mission project. Everyone is expected to help the best that they can with our fundraisers. Your participation is needed to make the fundraiser a success!

Deadlines: Please keep in mind deadlines for registration, fees, and permission forms. Many of our events require down payments and/or advance reservations and we need to know who is coming weeks before the events. Where events call for transportation, we need a head count to assure we have adequate transportation.

Bring Your Friends!: All youth in grades 6-12 through the age of 18 years and 9 months are welcome to join us for UMYF and our other ministries. For larger events (lock-ins, retreats, trips off-site, etc.) we may have attendance requirements. We ask that any friends of Calvary youth that may want to go on these types of trips attend at least two Lesson Nights prior to the event. We need to know the youth that are in our care. Additionally, if there is limited space, Calvary UMYF has first choice. Some activities may have additional requirements for participation, such as helping to fundraise and/or service participation.

Cell Phones, Ipods, and other electronic devices: You may bring them with you to youth events unless otherwise noted on the permission slips. However, they are not to be used during worship, breakout sessions, lessons, or any other activity that your participation is being requested. There may be times when leaders collect all the devices and put them in a basket until the activity is over. Other times, youth will be gently asked to put their device away. If a second reminder is needed, the youth leader will help the youth with the temptation to use their electronics by holding on to it until the end of the activity. ***Youth will be expected to adhere to Calvary UMC's Policy regarding electronic communication.*** Failure to do so may result in being removed from the youth ministry program.

Here to Stay: We are so glad you came and we want and need you to stay at the location of the activity. (For example: When we are eating dinner, you need to be in the hall where it is served until we leave that hall as a group). If you have to leave that area, you must let a youth leader know and when you return you need to let the same leader know you are back with the group. No one will be allowed outside until it is time for the activity to be dismissed and parents are arriving for pick-up.

Inclement Weather: When Frederick **AND** Carroll County Schools are closed, Calvary Church will be closed and UMYF activities for that day or evening will be cancelled or postponed. Should this happen, we will make every effort to get that information to you as soon as possible via email and/or a posting on our Facebook Page (Calvary Mount Airy UMYF).

Youth Workers: Adult Volunteers complete training and are screened through the process of completing a background screening.

UMYF Signature Form

Parents:

I have reviewed the Youth Handbook, the Code of Conduct and the Discipline Plan with my youth. I expect them to uphold these items while participating with all UMYF and church activities.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth:

I realize that I am an important part of the Calvary UMYF. When participating in all UMYF and church activities, I recognize the fact that my individual actions are not merely a reflection of myself, but also a reflection on the UMYF group and my church. Because of this, I strive to abide by the Youth Handbook, the Code of Conduct, and the Discipline Plan.

I commit to these rules, not just from a sense of regulation, but from a sense of caring for others as was taught by the example of Christ's love for all people.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____