



YOUTH GROUP IS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!!!

Meet the Youth Director

Name: Robin Stuart

Born and raised in Catawba County. Been a member of Sardis all my life.

My parents were started as leaders of the Junior Youth group when my brother was in 5th grade and I was in 3rd. They lead the Junior Youth until I was in 8th grade. My parents loved the youth of Sardis and enjoyed working with them and watching their faith form in Christ.

I am a divorced mom of 2 young adults in in the congregation that continue to amaze me all the time. When we left their dad that was it. Their dad chose not to be a part of their life. They are survivors of child abuse at the hand of their father and I am a survivor of domestic violence at the hand of their father. They were faced with a difficult decision regarding their deceased father a few years back and chose to do the right thing at the ages of 18 and 19.

I started working with the youth some when my children Zachary and Cynthia were of youth age but it was mainly them so we didn't have routine meetings but did do some activities like go to the Youth Gathering in 2015 in Detroit and the 2018 one in Houston. It is amazing to watch 30,000 + youth in high school worshipping and praising God! It took around 20 minutes to give communion to all of those people.

I took a brief hiatus from youth after the passing of my beloved mom. I was finally finding the time to grieve for my dad that passed 3 years prior as well as grieve for my mom.

After some time away and a worldwide pandemic I was lead back to the youth and wanted to reach out to say hey we are thinking about you. We did gift cards for restaurants and a back to school goodie bag.

Last year I was approached by a very energetic pastor who said something like I think we have enough youth to form youth groups. I want you to learn about youth spaces and learn about youth groups. I took time to do that and I shared that previously.

Goals for youth:

- Meetings will be for food of some sort, fun and fellowship
- Planning to do some service work at Trinity Ridge
- Visit The Dwelling (An ELCA congregation led by Pastor Emily Norris) located in Winston that caters to the homeless in that area.
- Youth Gathering in 2024 in New Orleans
- Have them bring friends
- Plan to have a drop box of anonymous questions they would like to ask the pastor or youth director about
- Provide a zone for the youth that whatever is said in the youth group is confidential so that they can come and share and feel safe knowing that it will not be spread all over school or get back to the people they don't want to know.
- Youth Sunday
- Involve youth in music
- And much more



I am excited to get to know the youth of Sardis better and to watch their faith formation unfold.

Youth group meetings for middle and high school start September 11 from 4-6 - we are planning on having food and doing some team building activities. Parents may stay if they chose to do so but when it is sharing time parents will be asked to leave the meeting area so that they can be more open to share what is bothering them.

Elementary age youth will be coming at some point after we get the middle and high school youth group up and going.

Brief Fall Festival Update

We are going to need volunteers of all ages to help with set up, running stations, being floaters, clean up, etc. I will be placing a sign up sheet in the narthex mid to late August. We have several games and activities planned for youth of all ages.

Please remember to start bringing in some small inexpensive prize items for some of the activities we will be doing.

Our next fall festival planning meeting will be August 8th at 6:30. We will be taking an inventory of things we have and what we need for activities. Anyone is welcome to come join in the fun and fellowship.

We plan to reach out to a local scout troop and see if they need service hours and if they could assist with parking for us. We have also discussed hiring a sheriff deputy to be on duty that day for safety concerns.



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Festival is October 8
from 1-4

