

caring sharing daring

From Pastor Bryce

Greetings to all the sisters and brothers of Green Street UMC and to all whom you hold dear! Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am excited to be entering this season of preparation together. Too often we miss this opportunity to draw near to God during these days leading up to Easter, so I am recommending seven ways to prepare your hearts to truly celebrate the resurrection of our Savior:

1. Participate in the **Take Jesus Seriously** Challenge and Sermon Series which begins March 1. These messages will explore what Jesus taught about justice, mercy and grace and challenge each of us to actually do what Jesus said to do.
2. Read some words of Jesus from scripture every day. If you are not sure where to begin, I would suggest the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 5-7.
3. Wear an "I Take Jesus Seriously" wristband to remind you of this challenge and as a witness to others.

4. Don't do or say anything without first affirming that you are taking Jesus seriously.

5. Pray as often as you can for strength and guidance.

6. Share your experiences with others. How has it transformed you? How has it transformed others?

7. Participate in a small group. These groups provide opportunities for learning and sharing. We have many small groups highlighted in this newsletter meeting at various times and in various locations.

Our church vision is *"To create an irresistible church that engages others to restore hope, change lives, and transform the community of Hastings and beyond."*

Jesus still restores hope, changes lives and transforms communities. Let it be so right here in Hastings as we **Take Jesus Seriously**.

Blessings to you and yours,



“Growing Young” Follow Up

I hope you enjoyed, and were challenged, by our January-February sermon series based on the book Growing Young. I am especially thankful to those who participated in a Growing Young discussion group! This shows that you care about young people and the future of this church. Many thanks to Marcia Szumowski, Denny Gaskill, Salina Eggers and Matt St. Jacques for facilitating the discussion groups!

My dream is that we will use the ideas that were developed by the discussion groups, implement those that we can, and move into deeper conversations about things that would be difficult to accomplish. Please allow me to report back to you now regarding the discussion group recommendations.

First, I compiled the discussion notes, “sticky notes”, “voting papers”, recommendations and action items from the four different discussion groups. The entire compiled document is available upon request. However, in the interest of brevity, and to help us focus on activities that we can implement, I have prepared a list of action items.

The action items are not listed in priority order, per se, other than the first 10 are already being implemented to some degree. So, folks have proactively prioritized them by their own actions. I love proactive people who are empowered to act!

Actions Items

1. Create a church picture directory to assist in learning the names of young people (and everyone) in the church.
2. Create a “Hastings Youth Pastor Alliance” that meets together and has shared youth group activities periodically.
3. Spotlight young people and their accomplishments periodically in the worship program, newsletter, offering slides, etc.

4. Support young people by attending their sporting events, plays, etc. Create a system to inform folks about the events and accomplishments of young people. Perhaps create a “support squad” of church folks that get together to attend youth activities.

5. Volunteer to work in the nursery, Sunday school, youth events, mission trips, Parents Night Out, etc.

6. Connect with groups that meet in our building, such as Scouts. Participate in their events and invite them to participate in church events.

7. Be intentional about asking young people to be involved in church (not just youth activities) at every possible opportunity such as by providing music, running sound and slides, serving Communion, leading their own worship, serving on church council, etc.

Yeah, I think the goal for our church is not really effectiveness with young people but serving and following Jesus. And young people like me are attracted to churches that want to do that.

*—Adam, age 26
From Growing Young book*

8. In addition to Facebook and website postings, use technology and software popular among young people like “YouTube” and “Instagram”.

9. Pray routinely for young people in the church and in the community.

10. Challenge folks of all ages to take Jesus seriously and to do what he said to do.

11. Create name tag system for children as part of a security check-in system.

12. Create name tag system for everyone.

Afraid teenagers won't want to talk to you? Think again. Try talking about something they actually care about, such as stress, dating relationships, or learning to hold down a job. Or enlist an adult young people know well to partner with you when you meet with them. —From Growing Young

13. Use the bus for bringing children to church as well as older folks.

14. Survey (perhaps via "Survey Monkey") young people, and the whole community, regarding what they want in a faith community.

15. Create new small groups especially for singles, young marrieds, and young families. Create adult VBS so adults have something to do while children are in VBS. Also create intergenerational small groups with defined starting and ending points.

16. Have more family-oriented programs such as a talent show or hobby night to highlight folks of all ages and bring the generations together.

17. Create opportunities for young people to hear from older folks about their experiences in life that younger folks haven't had, particularly experiences of risk and how this shaped their lives and faith.

18. Create mentoring program such as "Adopt a Youth" or "Adopt a Grandparent".

19. Have adults periodically cook for youth group meeting meals. Sit at the tables and eat with youth rather than staying in kitchen or sitting at their own tables.

20. Have church brunch/potluck following The Word once per month when Communion is served during The Word. Randomly assign folks to tables and have questions/activity cards on each table to allow folks to share and get to know each other.

21. Interview folks that have left the church and ask them why.

22. Create intergenerational church softball team.

23. Provide more opportunities for folks to share their faith stories.

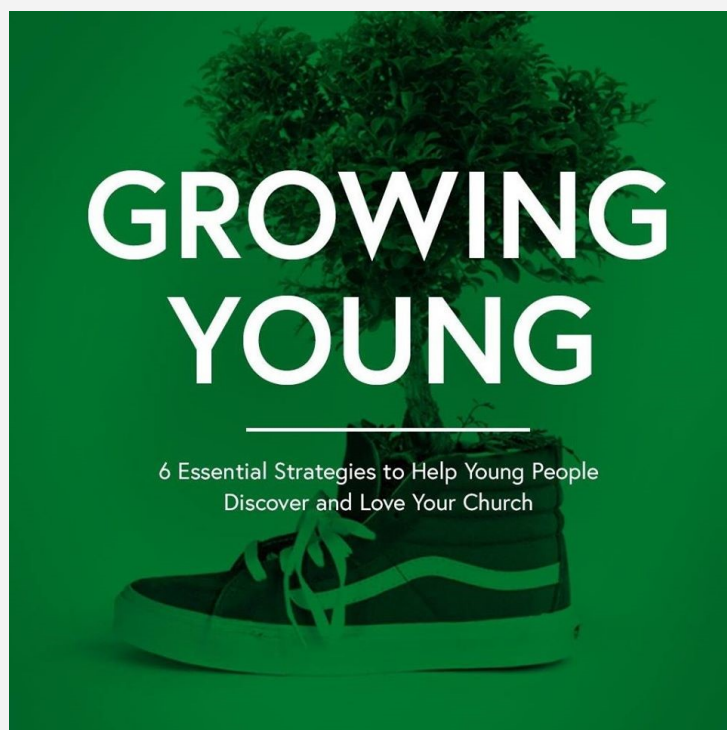
24. Provide more opportunities for folks to have difficult conversations about tough issues.

That is a very impressive list! But none of this matters if it doesn't help our church reach young people. None of it matters if it doesn't inspire new vitality in our congregation.

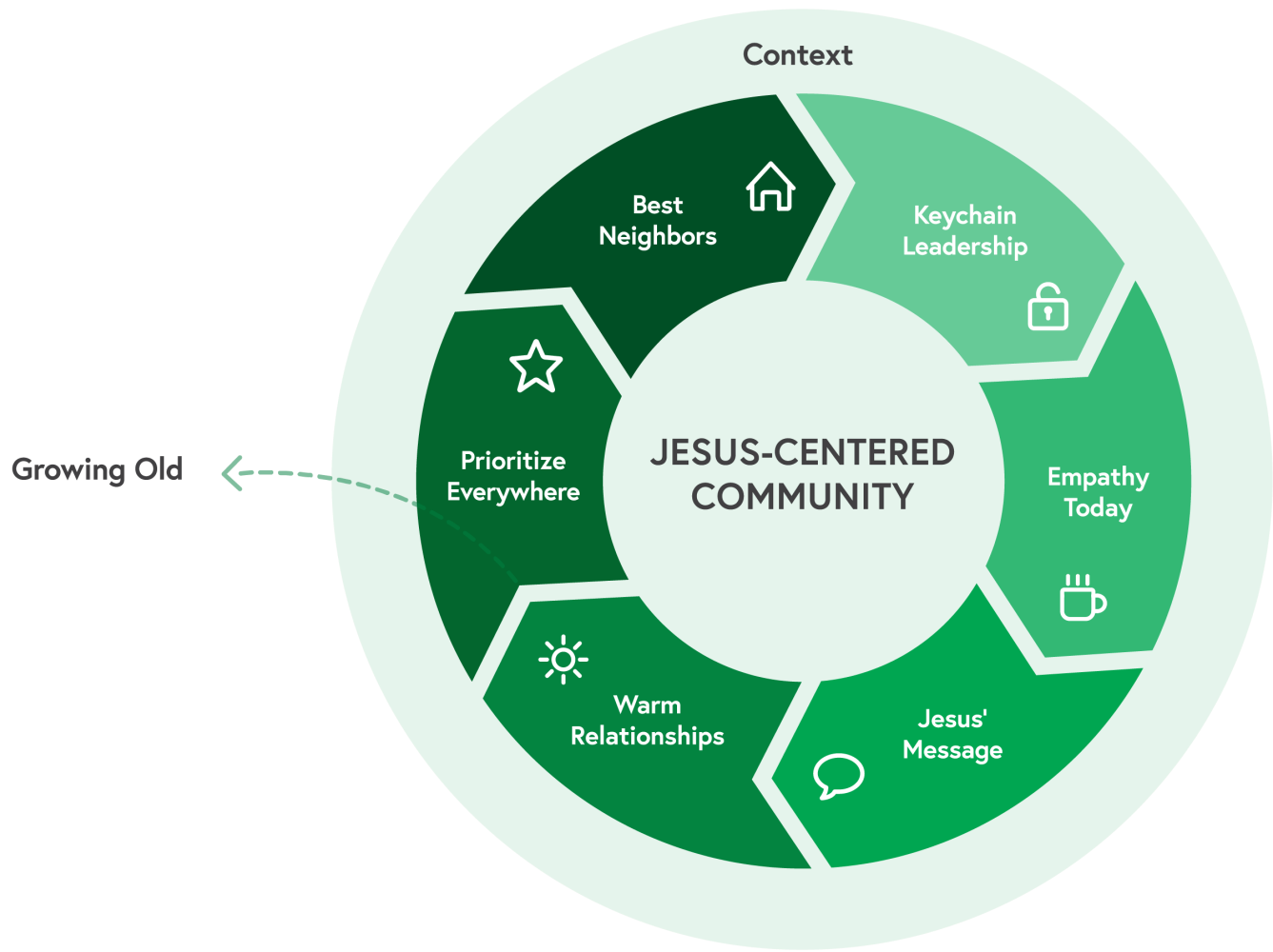
So, keep the conversations going and the ideas coming! And keep taking actions to help us engage more young people!

Thank you for all you do for Christ and His Kingdom!

Blessings,



The 6 Core Commitments of Churches Growing Young



Unlock keychain leadership:

Instead of centralizing authority, empower others—especially young people.

Empathize with today's young people:

Instead of judging or criticizing, step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus' message seriously:

Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims, welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

Fuel a warm community:

Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs, aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships.

Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:

Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter, look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.

Be the best neighbors:

Instead of condemning the world outside your walls, enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.



What does that mean?

So, the next time you meet up with someone, you can extend your hand and say their name!

☐ Member ☐ Interest in becoming a member

[illegible]

Spring Rummage Sale

Spring Rummage Sale is fast approaching. And ... so is SPRING CLEANING!!! Now is the time to get busy and clean out all of those items that haven't been touched in a long time. Remember, if you haven't used it in the past year, you probably won't use it this year either. Therefore, the United Methodist Women invite you to bring all of your unwanted items to the church for our sale. Intake for the sale will be April 27 & 28, Sale days April 29-May 1. As a reminder, make sure all of your items are clean. We are happy to accept all clothing, household items, seasonal items, sporting goods, tools, small furniture, etc.

We can always use your help in setting up, during the sale, and for packing up the unsold items. Feel free to come anytime. We will even share a cup of coffee with you.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Linda Hill at 231-620-9114.

United Methodist Women

Security Tips

Safety and Risk Management have become more and more of a concern in the Church environment. We have installed new First Aid Kits and an additional AED's (Automated External Defibrillator) downstairs. We will soon be posting Evacuation/Fire/Weather routes in each room of the church with appropriate Safety Zones and indicating where the First Aid kits and AED's can be located. We also have put together a portable First Aid Kit in a bag. Thank you to Martha Misak for updating all of the supplies. We have at least 10 Green Street members that have been trained in CPR and AED usage as of December 2019. Your safety and security are our main concern.

Denny Gaskill
dengaskill68@gmail.com
Chairman of Risk Management

Family Promise

Family Promise is trying to restock their shelves. They are in need of bathroom cleaner, disinfectant wipes, laundry detergent and dryer sheets (and baskets), stain remover, shaving cream (men & women), feminine products. You may bring these items directly to the day center at Hope UMC or drop them off in our church office.

Phu Family Reunion

The Phu family immigrated to the U.S. from Vietnam 40 years ago. Our church sponsored the family, helping them in many ways including learning the language and culture. The Phus have grown to thirty-nine (39) immediate family members since arriving in Hastings and they are now located all across the country. Twenty-five (25) members of the family are returning "home" on **March 8** to renew their friendships and share their experiences of living in Hastings with their newest family members. They will join us in church on March 8 and we will have a potluck in their honor at 11:00 am following the worship services.

We want to make this reunion special for the Phu family! Terri Barry, our Church Historian, is putting together a collection of photos to share with the congregation and the family on March 8. If you have photos of the Phu family you would be willing to share, please provide them to Terri Barry (territbarry@gmail.com). If you have stories you would like to share, perhaps even during the worship service, please contact Pastor Bryce (brycefeighner@yahoo.com).

Handbells

You're invited to join the Handbell Choir as we prepare for Lent. Rehearsals are Sundays through LENT at 2:00 p.m., in the Worship Center.

No previous experience required



180 Conference

180 Turn-Around Conference - Several of us have attended this conference the last few years and have had a great time and come back with a ton of information and refreshed! Would you like to go with us this year???

Thursday, March 19, 2020 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Please contact Pastor Bryce or Stacy Steward if you're interested or have questions. There is a multi-page flier available in the back of the worship center with all the workshop choices for the conference.

Roots Returns March 3rd

"Roots" is an 8-week class designed to promote understanding of our beliefs as United Methodists by studying our Biblical and historical roots.

Meets for 8 weeks in March and April 2020 on:

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM; Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM; Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.

Dates listed below are for the Tuesday evening sessions. Wednesday and Sunday classes cover the same material as the previous Tuesday. Come to any or all sessions. All are invited. If you have questions, please contact Bryce Feighner at 517-588-1619 or brycefeighner@yahoo.com.

All you need is your Bible. Suggested Bible readings are listed next to each date and subject. Class sessions will generally begin with a 15-minute video followed by discussion.

A field trip to St. Herman Orthodox Church in Woodbury will be on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Later Judaism and Early Christianity</i> <i>Subject</i>	<i>Suggested Readings</i>
March 3, 2020	Apocalyptic and Inter-Test. Literature	Mark 13, Daniel 11
March 10, 2020	Early Church	Acts 2, 15
March 17, 2020	Earliest NT Writer: Paul	Galatians 1, 2, 3
March 24, 2020	Gospels	Matthew 5, 6, 7

<i>Date</i>	<i>Orthodoxy to Methodism</i> <i>Subject</i>	<i>Suggested Readings</i>
March 31, 2020	Orthodox Doctrines	Apostles and Nicene Creeds
April 7, 2020	No Class – Holy Week	
April 14, 2020	East/West Schism	James
April 21, 2020	Protestant Reformation	Ephesians
April 28, 2020	Distinctive Methodism	Handouts

KidZone



Journey

During the season of Lent, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. In KidZone, we will be studying this journey from the book of Matthew, beginning with Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath, an-

gering the Pharisees. To continue the journey at home, watch for our **Taking Jesus Seriously** bags. This resource contains symbols and talking points/devotions for families and individuals to do weekly during our journey to Easter.

ARMOR UP!

This year's VBS, Knights of North Castle will be June 15-19. Here's how you can help now:

1. **Pray** for this ministry.
2. Watch this update each month for items to donate.
- **Clean gallon milk/water jugs**
3. Contact Salina (kidzone.greenstreetumc@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a **Station Leader, Group Leader, Decorating Leader, Publicity Leader**, or helping in any other way.



Thank you to everyone who helped with Parents' Night Out! We served 16 kids who had a blast!



Memory Verse

The LORD will protect you on your journeys - whether going or coming.

-Psalm 121:8



Missions

During the spring months the noisy collection mission will be the Tuesday night community meal served here at Green Street UMC!

1

MAN IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Jesus shows us that it is always the right time to help others.

2

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

Jesus welcomes everyone - no matter how old or young.

3

LAST SUPPER

Jesus gave us a special way to remember his love for us.

4

IN THE GARDEN

Jesus shows us that it is okay to feel difficult feelings.

5

PETER

Even though Peter made a mistake, God believed in him and his ability to do better.

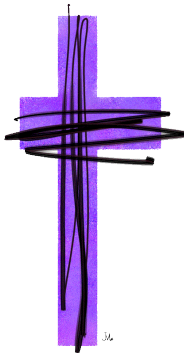
Youth Group

A Lenten Challenge!

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we challenge ourselves to acts of service toward others.

And-we're inviting **YOU** to join us! We want to collect clothes and/or food to donate for those who need it. The idea is each day/week of Lent you set aside an unwanted piece of clothing or item of food. On Easter, bring your collection of items to church to be given away! There are three "levels" of commitment to stir your generosity.

So-what level will you commit to???



The EPIC Lent

-One item of clothing & food for each day of Lent!

The All In

-One item of clothing OR food each day of Lent

Steady On

-One item of clothing OR food each week of Lent

South Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek provides food to over 285 food pantries (including the one at our church) and other food programs to help provide millions of meals to people each year. In order to keep up with the volume of food, they schedule volunteer days to help with food donations that need re-packaging or organizing in order to be ready to send out to food pantries. Our youth group will be joining other volunteers on **Saturday, March 21st from 9-noon!** We will meet at the church parking lot at 8am.

Parents must sign permission slips for this event. Let us know if you have questions or plan to attend!

Green Street UMC Youth Ministry meets weekly during the school year —

Sunday nights at 5:30pm! Grades 6-12 are welcome!

A typical night includes fellowship time-games and snacks-and a discussion based study that gets us into the Word. There are also extra opportunities for fun and service.

We hope you'll join us!

—Matt St. Jacques, Director of Youth Ministries

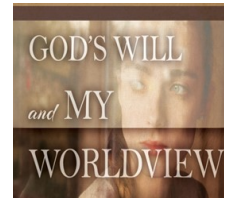
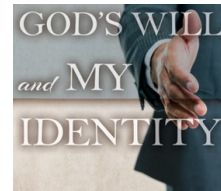
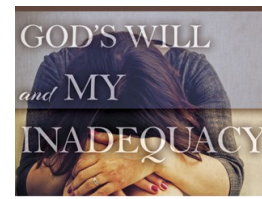


Follow us on social media!
Green Street UMC Youth



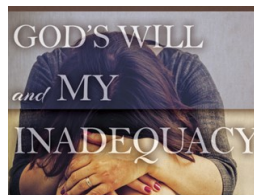
Lent 2020

Join our ecumenical
community on
Wednesdays with a meal
at 12:00 noon &
program to follow



Your Will be Done

4 March 2020
Grace Lutheran



11 March 2020
Hope UMC



18 March 2020
Hastings
Nazarene



25 March 2020
Green Street
UMC



1 April 2020
First Presbyterian



March 4 @ Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Danny Quanstrom, leader
March 11 @ Hope United Methodist Church, Pastor Linnea Stifler, leader
March 18 @ Hastings Nazarene Church, Pastor Bryce Feighner, leader
March 25 @ Green Street UMC, Pastor Kim Metzger, leader
April 1 @ Frist Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ken Scheck II, leader



Worship **OUT** of the building! - we have folks that we visit regularly and serve Communion, sing hymns, and fellowship with at Carveth Village, Thornapple Manor, Woodlawn Meadows and Hastings Rehab. Pastor Bryce would like to invite you to join him!!! If you are available, we would love to have you...no RSVP required. Please contact Pastor Bryce if you have any questions. 517-588-1619 brycefeighner@yahoo.com.

- Hastings Rehab - E North Street, Hastings
- Woodlawn Meadows - 1821 N East St, Hastings
- Carveth Village - 690 W Main St, Middleville
- Thornapple Manor - 2700 Nashville Rd, Hastings

Mar 2 - Hast Rehab 11:15 & Woodlawn 12:30

Mar 4 - Carveth 12:30

Mar 5 - Thornapple Manor 1:30

The Little Mermaid

Hastings High School presents "The Little Mermaid" at the Performing Arts Center! Our very own senior, Alex Steward (drummer during The Praise) will be playing the part of Sebastian! You can buy tickets online at www.hastingshs.seatyourself.biz.

If you need assistance getting your tickets in advance, stop by the church office and Stacy will help you!

They sold out all but 1 performance last year so it is highly recommended that you buy your tickets in advance!

Mar 12 @ 7PM

Mar 13 @ 7PM

Mar 14 @ 2PM & 7PM



Contacts

Bryce Feighner
Pastor
brycefeighner@yahoo.com

Stacy Steward
Ministry Assistant
Contemporary Worship Leader
office.greenstreetumc@gmail.com

Matt St. Jacques
Director of Youth Ministries
youth.greenstreetumc@gmail.com

Salina Eggers
Director of Children's Ministries
kidzone.greenstreetumc@gmail.com

Shelia Huis
Pianist/Organist
Chancel Choir/Handbell Director
huishausproductions@gmail.com

Kristina Krol
Nursery Ministry
peaceislove08@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9am - 3pm

If Hastings Area Schools is closed due to the weather the church office is also closed. Additionally, all scheduled church activities are also canceled unless you hear specifically from the person leading the group/meeting/rehearsal!

Sundays!!!

9:30 The Praise
10:00 The Word
10:40 The Table
11:00 Adult Sunday School
5:30 Youth Group

Green Street UMC
209 W Green Street
Hastings, MI 49058
greenstreetumc.faith
(269) 945-9574

Address Service Requested

message series...

Sunday Worship 9:30AM

The Praise
The Word
The Table

taking
JESUS
seriously



VBS 2020 is Coming!!! The theme is set! The dates are set! JUNE 15th - 19th!!!

It's hard to think about VBS when we're surrounded in snow, but this year's theme is Knights of North Castle! Our knights will be going on a Quest for the King's Armor throughout the northern kingdom on June 15-19. We are going to be turning the sanctuary into something of a winter wonderland, so if you notice any fake snow, snowflake decor, etc. on sale/clearance after the holidays, we can put it to use.

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is.

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the **Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation**—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.

Parents Night Out!

Need something for your kids to do while you celebrate Valentine's Day? We will have a movie night here at the church on Friday, February 14 from 6:00-9:00. We had a great attendance last February! We'd like to advertise this event and invite the community to drop off their children for free childcare. In order to do that, we are in need of some adult volunteers to be present during this event. Please see Matt St. Jacques or Salina Eggers with interest. What a great opportunity to serve our community!

