

PARENT

HAND BOOK



**MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
— CHURCH —**



HEY THERE!

So you're the parent of a teenager, huh? Congratulations! You have one of the most important (and sometimes the most difficult) jobs on the planet.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help, in any way we can. Sure, we're a "youth" ministry, but teenagers aren't the only people we care about. We care about you too.

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your teenager. Your trust and partnership mean a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what God has in store this year!



OUR VISION

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning with teenagers. We often ask question like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? and Are teenagers really growing in their faith? That's why we decided to go ahead and define our vision for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a ministry, want to achieve. It's the end goal we want to always keep in mind. Montclair Community Church's student ministry visions is to be a...

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY OF YOUTH.

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

Being a Christian in high school and middle school can feel lonely. That's why we believe being a part of a Christ Centered Community is so important. It teaches us that we aren't alone and beyond that it also...

- **Challenges us to be more like Jesus** (Heb 10:24-25)
- **Supports/encourages each other** (Gal 6:2)
- **Helps us learn about and use our gifts** (Rom 12:4-8)
- **Builds up our faith** (Jam 5:13-16 &19-20)
- **It is fun** (Ps 133:1)
- **Fosters love** (Col 3:13-14)
- **Helps us grow** (1 Cor 14:26)
- **And much more**



OUR GOAL(S)

Our vision of being a Christ centered community of youth never changes but what does change is our goal for our year. Depending on our students, our leaders, the culture of our group, maturity, and other factors we may change our goal(s) for the year.

Last year's main goal was to build community. We focused on team games, activities that forced students to work together, lessons that focused on our relationship with others and God and restructured our "small groups" to focus on doing life together. Through God's grace we saw the community aspect of our group grow strong. This year we want to continue to grow our strong community but also focus on...

LEARNING: We want to take our lessons to the next level and make them deeper Biblically. This year we are switching up our curriculum from one that that was more topical to a curriculum that focuses on Bible stories. More on this later.

SERVING: Watching some of our student serve at our VBS this year really reminded my how important it is for our students to be serving together inside the church and outside the church. This year we are going to make it a bigger point to create service opportunities for all our students.

SEEKING: We want to help our students move from just listeners to seekers. In other words, we want to see them active in their faith. We are going to encourage them to seek God on their own. This may look like personal devotionals, sharing the gospel with their friends, helping them find answers to their own questions, etc. Our goal is to help them seek out ways to grow spiritually.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 7:15PM – 8:30PM

Every Wednesday our middle school and high school students (grades 6-12) meet for games, a lesson, life groups, and connection times.

ELEMENTS OF OUR MEETING

Each Wednesday night has 4 purpose filled elements to it. Each one is designed to strategically invite teenagers on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus. Each element is designed with every teenager in mind - the kid who's grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

GAMES: While games may not seem like we are just having a good time messing around it is much more than that. The purpose of these games is twofold. They are meant to build connections between students and tear down walls that students may have. When we have fun together it helps build trust and repour which in return helps us share the Gospel. And games are fun!

LESSON: Each week we will have a 10–15-minute lesson. Our lesson will be relevant, creative, and Bible centered. Our goal is each student where they are and share Biblical truths that transform lives.

Life Group's: The goal of our life group's is to be able to do life together. This isn't just a small group where we



discuss the message and ask a few questions. Instead, we want these groups to encourage, pray, listen, point back to God, discuss difficult topics, and what ever else life throws at us. Life groups move the focus from answering a question to building a Christ centered community.

CONNECTION TIMES: Sometimes the best conversations are had when you are just sitting on a couch, playing a game of uno, playing a video game, or having a snack. Each week we build in connection time which is “free time” where our students can play any of our games, hang on our couches, or play a card game. This allows our students to build relationships with each other. It also gives our leaders a great opportunity to build connections with our students and trying to engage in meaningful conversation.



THE GAME PLAN

TEACHING

THE THREAD

The curriculum we are using this year is called “The Thread”. The Thread is designed to help students discover The Thread of the Gospel through the big-picture story of the Bible. This curriculum seeks to accomplish two things.

First, our students will learn the big-picture story of Scripture. So many teenagers simply don't have a grasp of the narrative of the Bible. Key characters. Key events. Few teenagers understand how these elements fit into the story of God and His people. *The Thread* aims to change this.

Second, our students will learn what the Gospel is, and how it literally courses through the narrative of Scripture. Not only will our students learn the story of the Bible, but they will see that it is a story of unfailing love, as God seeks from the beginning of Creation to draw humankind to Him through the grace of the Gospel.



What's Covered in The Thread?

PART 1: BEGINNINGS

- Week 1 | Creation and Creation of Man
- Week 2 | Sin and the Fall
- Week 3 | The Faith of Noah and God's Hatred of Sin
- Week 4 | Abraham and the Birth of a People
- Week 5 | The Offering of Isaac
- Week 6 | Joseph and His Brothers
- Week 7 | Moses and the Burning Bush
- Week 8 | Plagues, the Exodus, and the Red Sea
- Week 9 | The 10 Commandments
- Week 10 | Joshua and the Promised Land

PART 2: A PEOPLE RISE. A PEOPLE FALL.

- Week 1 | The Period of the Judges
- Week 2 | Ruth and Redemption
- Week 3 | Saul and the Need for a King
- Week 4 | David
- Week 5 | The Rise and Fall of Solomon
- Week 6 | The Divided Kingdom
- Week 7 | The Destruction of Israel and Judah
- Week 8 | The Prophets
- Week 9 | Nehemiah and Rebuilding
- Week 10 | Messianic Prophecy from Isaiah



PART 3: THE GOSPEL COMES TO LIFE

- Week 1 | Jesus' Beginning
- Week 2 | Temptation of Jesus
- Week 3 | The Calling of the Disciples
- Week 4 | Jesus' miracles
- Week 5 | Peter's Confession of Christ
- Week 6 | The Parable of the Lost Son
- Week 7 | The Last Supper
- Week 8 | Jesus' Arrest and Trial
- Week 9 | The Crucifixion and Burial
- Week 10 | The Resurrection

PART 4: THE GOSPEL AT WORK

- Week 1 | Jesus Appears to Disciples and the Ascension
- Week 2 | The Holy Spirit and Pentecost
- Week 3 | A Picture of the Early Church
- Week 4 | A Letter from Paul, Part 1 (The Roman Road)
- Week 5 | A Letter from Paul, Part 2 (The Supremacy of Christ in Colossians 1)
- Week 6 | A Letter from James (Faith Must Be Lived Out)
- Week 7 | A Letter to the Hebrews (Pursuing Faith)
- Week 8 | A Letter from John (Known by Our Love from 1 John)
- Week 9 | Revelation



OUR EVENTS

DISCLAIMER

While we like to have a plan for our events for the year obviously a lot can change as this year goes on. The events listed below are subject to change. There may be some events canceled and other events added as we go through this year. However, we will notify you of any changes via email in advance.

MONTHLY PARENT FELLOWSHIP

On the first Wednesday of every month Lynne has offered to host a fellowship event for parents. We know parenting is hard and it's even harder when we try to do it alone. This event will give you an opportunity to fellowship, connect, pray, learn from, and be with other Christian parents of youth.

PIZZAPALOOZA | 9/21/2022

What better way to kick off the year than with a pizza party! September 21st is our first youth group of the school year. For the kickoff we will be having a pizza party, pizza related games, and all-around fun time



TRICK- OR- TREAT OUTREACH / 10/31/2022

Each year on Halloween MCC does our “Trick-or-Treat Outreach”. The purpose of this event is get involved in our community, connect with our neighbors, and share the joy of Jesus Christ. It has been a success for the past three years and this year we are going to encourage our students to get involved.

FRIENDSGIVING / 11/23/2022

A potluck dinner with group games and delicious food. This is a perfect event to invite a friend to.

CHRISTMAS PARTY / 12/21/2022

Our annual Christmas part with hot chocolate, a Christmas message, and a \$5-\$10 gift exchange.

Winterblast / 2/10 – 2/12/2023

Our students favorite event all year is Winterblast. It is 40 hours to worship, learn, celebrate, and connect! The camp is two and half hours away in Dallas, Pa. This is always a incredible speaker, energetic worship band, tons of activities, and a great way to deepen relationships with each other and Jesus.



SERVICE EVENT (tbd) | 3/_/2023

We want to get our students involved in some kind of community service this month. This will be determined later.

MISSION WEEK | 7/9 – 7/15/2023

COH-Mission is a weeklong foundational missions experience designed for youth leaders and their students. This week will combine traditional camp with training, worship, service, team building, projects with ministries that are impacting their community year-round, and gospel impact!



THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safety of your teenager is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they undergo a rigorous application and interview process, including a criminal background check.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set a number of guidelines for our youth ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No leader should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a teenager without the knowledge and consent of you, their parents.
- No leader should transport a teenager in a vehicle alone. If a teenager needs a ride, we must arrange to have another adult or teenager ride accompany them.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with teenagers at all times.



WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Every staff member and volunteer in our ministry is a mandated reporter, which means we are legally required to report any dangerous or potentially dangerous situations immediately, including...

- If a student is being harmed, neglected, or abused.
- If a student is harming or abusing someone else.
- If a student is harming or at risk of harming themselves.

WE ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

If you ever have a concern about your teenager's care or safety, please reach out to us. We're just a phone call or email away!



CONTACT US

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open . . .

EMAIL

We send an email just for parents every week. Specifically, this year this email will provide more information about our weekly lesson and a few Next Step questions for you to continue this conversation at home.

PASTOR ERIC'S INFORMATION

Email: Eric@montclair.church

Cellphone: (862) 251-1257



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