

FFWPU USA's National Youth Ministry activities for February 2017

Kaeleigh Moffitt
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February was an AWESOME month!

Check out some highlights from Youth Ministries from around the nation! I know I'm inspired by reading these reports. I'm pretty sure you'll feel the same after reading them as well! Love you all!

-Kaeleigh



Tempe, Arizona

This month during Teen Night, we decided to focus on what matters most to us. To celebrate this idea, we decided to bring the GPA tradition of making personal notebooks to use throughout the year. For the theme connect, we shared answers to questions anonymously. One of the chosen questions was, "what makes you really sad?" Since the activity allowed participants to be anonymous, the idea was to encourage you to write an answer as you would answer it, no filters. Some answers were really surprising. We ended the afternoon asking how they felt through the experience. We want the

youth of our community to understand that we are different and unique children of God, and that we should embrace one another as themselves - not to our own personal expectations.

- M. Fukuzaki



Kansas City, Kansas

We had a great event celebrating God and His amazing creation. We watched some video clips, discussed, and enjoyed nature. We also had a sleepover at the church center with delicious food, Just Dance! and more!

- K. Anthonis



Tarrytown, New York

This last month of February, our Up & Coming youth ministry focused on the theme of Empower. A highlight from one of the weeks was hearing a matching testimony from a couple who's been part of our community for a long time.

Hearing their testimony connected a lot of our participants to the desire to grow themselves in preparation for a future relationship.

- T. Hagiwara



Northern Virginia

This month was slam packed with great moments. This past weekend being the freshest in mind, we had a discussion night called: An Attitude of Service. Using a book written by Gary Chapman (5 Signs of a Loving Family) along with Divine Principle we strived to illuminate the True definition of an Attitude of Service which is the first characteristic or sign of a loving family.

We also started the month super connected with this crazy weekend of shenanigans, fellowship, and

down right epic fun bringing DMV AND PA out for Word Up (all about lean on me) as well as a sleepover to celebrate Ya Chan's Sweet 16 birthday. :) Bonding Happened!. All topped off with a spectacular fireworks show that LITERALLY woke up half the neighborhood.

-J. Jenkins



Dallas, Texas

We had three exciting things happen this month to help our youth group connect. First, we had a fun-filled Saturday with 20+ youth and young adults combined.

The theme was to connect and learn from each other as brothers and sisters, so, the brothers taught the sisters how to change a tire, and the sisters taught the brothers how to apply face mask. There were many other fun activities in between!

Secondly, the youth group went on a Sunday hike

to enjoy the God-given nature that they hardly enjoy on a regular basis. We read from True Father's autobiography as our Hoon Dok Hae and enjoyed lunch by a nice pond. Thirdly, the brothers had a brothers night to connect with each other in a deeper sense.

- S. Suina



Bridgeport, Connecticut

The Bridgeport Community started off this semester's Youth Ministry with two programs for our youth: Our weekly SLAM sessions and our High School Gatherings! For this month of Connect, SLAM did a day of fun icebreakers, a competition where teams constructed bridges to see which one was the strongest, and activities revolving around getting to know one another.

As for our High School Gathering, we had our first meeting where we had a few icebreakers, brainstormed some future activities, and went out to a local ice cream parlor! Now that we're all connected, we can't wait to be inspired for the month of March!

- Y. Torikai



Omaha, Nebraska

This month we had a movie night together. The sermon from the previous Sunday was titled "Aladdin," and focused on changing through seeing from a different perspective. We watched the movie and talked about the connections we saw between the sermon and the movie. This sparked some good conversations pertaining to the importance of perspective, and we were able to find many connections.

For Connect, I decided to keep our youth group more casual just to spend some quality bonding together. I left the floor open to talk about whatever we wanted to talk about. We were able to each share a bit on what we have been up to and hear about each others' most recent successes, stresses, etc. We talked about a range of subjects including the mentorship from last semester as well as the progress of some of our goals we made during winter workshop.

- A. Asanuma



Minneapolis, Minnesota

This past February we had our very first inter-generational youth night which featured first, second, and third generation members in our community. We started off our night with an icebreaker followed by a team game called "four on a couch". After some competition we had some internal time and wrote down solutions for bringing together our generations. We then broke into groups with mixed generations and discussed

certain aspects about life such as, the future, what makes them happy, what makes them grateful etc. We then capped off the night with bowling. With a total of 22 participants it turned out to be a great, high spirited evening

- M. Muyongo



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This past month was exciting! We started it off by going to Word Up in Virginia and spent the weekend reconnecting with each other since Winter Workshop. The theme was "Lean On Me" which was an important reminder that we need to support others and allow ourselves to receive support. Our community also organized a dinner together to reconnect with older brothers and sisters we had not seen in a while.

We also had a youth group where we addressed the importance of our community. We will be moving to a new building soon, so we thought it would be good to talk about our strengths as a community, what we need to change and what can we hold onto. The idea was about how we can maintain a strong connection as a community.

- K. Suzuki



Bowie, Maryland

This month we used the theme of connect to create our own theme of "Lean on Me". We gave talks and did activities on the deeper side of connecting and how we can lean on each other in good and difficult times and also but also how we should be there to help other lean on us. We did many different activities throughout the month including some fun literal leaning on each other games, as well as more serious skits on how to help friends who many be struggling with difficulties such as bad grades in school and friends who many be struggling with their parents. Some of our kids

decided to practice this theme further by getting all the kids in our youth group to make a video montage

of love and encouragement for a family who's mom has been diagnosed with cancer. They truly connected this month!

- M. Manor



Clifton, New Jersey

This past month we had brother/sister night. For brother's night we had physical activities, video games, and came together to talk about some struggles we face and the way to overcome some is to keep in consistent communication with others. For sister's night they had fun activities as well as a discussion on their innate value, and not to get swallowed up by what society is expecting of all women to be. At the end of the month, Raymond Burns gave a talk how we are all striving to reach the ideal relationships with others and just how

important it is to maintain our purity to make that ideal a reality. We were able to have the participants and their parents to discuss about this topic.

-Y. Ozawa



Chicago, Illinois

This month we drove to downtown Chicago and visited one of the famous museum, the Museum of Science and Industry. Afterwards we walked around the Chicago beach. This was a highlight because our theme was connect and we didn't think of the event as anything but being with each other and having fun, and we saw many high school kids that came that usually don't. I'm glad that these kids got to see what our home city has to offer with the museum and the beach on Lake Michigan. Also this city offers each other and I'm

glad that we got to "connect" again in the middle of the school year and add more on the list.

- K. Enami



Indianapolis, Indiana

We used the theme of Connect through our High School program and implemented smaller topics: "The Power of Reflection" and "Community". The high school kids started off with understanding the power of digesting their experiences/using reflection for the first week. For the second week, we wanted them to have better awareness for the brothers and sisters around them; understand the value of support in a community.

-N. Nishikawa



Los Angeles, California

The theme for junction was understanding/viewing from God's perspective. Similar to the God collage activity, we had all of the teams get the same set of words and had everyone draw on one big piece of paper with each person getting a specific word/phrase. However we had to put all our ideas together without communicating (mostly no talking). We had to try to have a wider perspective as we try to see and understand God's perspective, getting inspired by seeing how our own ideas can

be expanded and inspired by seeing and working with others.

- T. Sasaki