



Dear Youth and Parents of FPCL Youth Group,

I am writing this letter to you as a sign of hope for the coming year of our youth group. August will mark 3 wonderful years at FPCL and I am looking forward to year 4 with everyone. This fall we will be moving youth group times. Beginning the first Sunday in September the following schedule will take place for our youth group.

Middle School will meet from 12pm-1pm, High School will meet from 1:00-2:30. If Middle School students attend church we will have lunch together, for now bring your own, before youth group begins at 12 in the youth room. High Schoolers have the option to have lunch together from 12-1.

So why the change? Three major reasons have prayerfully lead me to this decision.

First, I have listened to these wonderful youth for the last three years about the immense homework load. Many times I have heard having youth group in the evening it adds to the stress of the work load. I know changing times doesn't help for the crazy weekends that are full of homework, but I hope it gives a better chance for your kids to come.

Second, I have listened to you all as families and heard a desire for family time that is missed out during our regular youth group times. My hope with moving the times is to give this family time back to everyone. Enjoy Sunday evenings as a family.

Third, over the last three years I have one classic theme has run through our discussions: It's hard to take God and faith out of the 4 walls of church. It's easy to talk about God during church and youth group but hard to move faith out into the every day. This summer I have tried some new tactics to help with this very discussion. I have taken youth to the art museum and hiking praying and talking about God through the experience. Each were wonderful experiences and I would love to continue these with more ideas throughout the youth group year. With moving the times we will be able to do more of these experiences as a group and give us more options in integrating faith in our lives.

Overall, I am aware there will still be games for sports during this time, or other things that come up. This was still the case with Sunday evening. I am trying to bring about a change for the better. I want us to grow together as a group and grow with those who are attending. I care deeply about each of your kids and families, and have great hope this will strengthen our youth group. If you would like to opportunity to talk through this face to face with me, I am happy to meet you for coffee to discuss this decision more in depth.

Many Blessings,  
Allie Atchison  
Director of Youth Ministries

***New Fall Schedule:***

**Middle School Youth Group:**  
12pm-1pm

**High School Youth Group:**  
1:00pm-2:30pm

\*Option for High School Youth to have lunch together from 12pm-1pm