**Duncan United Church Youth Group**

**September 2018 Parent Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

As September rolls in and the leaves start to change and fall, we again start another wonderful year of Youth Group here at Duncan United Church! We have an action-packed Fall & Winter season full of exciting and wonderful activities for youth in Grades 4 through 12. We again will be having our weekly Friday night youth groups here at DUC, but in addition we will be travelling at least once a month throughout the Cowichan Valley to join up with other regional United Church Youth Groups (So if you are able to help as a Parent Driver, please look at the Youth Group Schedule and let me know, Thank You in advance for your help!).

Friday Night Youth Groups will still be happening at 6:00-7:00pm for Junior Youth and 7:30-8:30pm for Senior Youth Group with a shared meal together from 7:00-7:30pm. But please consult the Youth Group Schedule to see if it a combined Youth Group night or a separate one.

**What is DU Youth?**

* DU Youth aims to offer a fun and safe space for youth to gather once a week, learn about spiritual practices and faith communities, and provide service to help make a difference in our community.
* DU Youth organizes joint events with youth groups from United Churches on Vancouver Island, as well as with other churches in the Cowichan Valley.
* Duncan United Church also financially supports youth to attend camps and youth events, both at Camp Pringle in Shawnigan Lake and the Evolve Youth Conference in Vancouver.
* Our youth also meet Sunday mornings during our weekly 10:00am Sunday worship service: Godly Play for grades 4-6 and Breakfast on the Sun for grades 7-12. All are welcome at both our Friday night and Sunday morning children and youth programs.

**How Does Duncan United Church fund its youth program?**

* Duncan United Church is funded locally by its congregation and does not receive funding from the regional or national levels of the United Church of Canada.
  + Duncan United provides a variety of pastoral care, social justice and outreach services to the community, including our ministry to youth.
  + Duncan United also provides a space for other community youth groups to meet, such as Canada World Youth and the Cowichan Intercultural Society’s Multicultural Leadership Group.
* We appreciate the support your family is already offering, in the willing and able participation of both youth (who attend and participate with enthusiasm), and parents (who get them here, provide for their care and help out with events where they can). The youth program would not be here without you.
* If you would like to help DU Youth, there are opportunities to volunteer, provide a meal/snack, and make a financial donation. Financial donations are tax receipted, and will certainly help keep our youth ministry blossoming.
* You can also take your refundable bottles and cans to the Duncan Encorp Return-it Depot at 6476 Norcross Road to support Duncan United’s youth program. Just tell the staff there that you would like to donate the funds to the Duncan United Church Youth Group account

**Volunteers:**

* We would love a few volunteers to assist with youth group during the 2018-19 school year, particularly our grade 12 students who have so much to offer from their wealth of youth group experience!
* If you, or someone you know, loves to work with youth and would like the experience of being a volunteer youth group leader on Friday nights, please let Sarah know – we have a lot of fun and you can really make a big difference in someone’s life!
* All staff and volunteers are required to undergo a criminal records check and A criminal record and/or VS checkvulnerable sector and criminal records check is required for all staff and volunteers working with children and youth.

**Start and Finish Times:**

* IMPORTANT: In consideration of our volunteers and leaders, ***please ensure youth are dropped off and picked up promptly according to our meeting times. Please also ensure that your youth has a safe way to get home after youth group.***
* ***Please sign your youth in and out on our sign-in sheet***, and include an emergency contact number so that we can reach you in case of an emergency during youth group.

**Weekly Reminders:**

* **Reminders will be sent out by email, to our Facebook page and on Twitter** (Facebook – Like “DU-Youth”; Twitter – Follow @DUYouth).

**What to Bring to DU Youth on Sept 14th, 2018:**

* Please fill out the enclosed registration form completely (both sides) and bring it with you.
* Please bring a labelled water bottle to youth group for your drink at snack time.
* Bring your ideas for what you’d like to do this year in youth group!

**Looking forward to seeing you all again and meeting new people!**

**If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to let me know,**

**I am available on Email and on my Mobile.**

**Blessings, Sarah Prestwich**

**Children and Youth Coordiantor @ Duncan United Church**

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