

# 115<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah

## Report of Youth Ministry

Youth ministry in the Diocese of Utah strives to provide opportunities for young people to gather together for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth and to support parishes in strengthening their ministries with young people.

### **Junior and Senior High Youth Events, Spring 2019-Fall 2020:**

- **Moab Spring Retreat:** In May of 2020 we traveled south to Moab to visit Saint Francis Church for a weekend of fun in the sun! Father Dave Sakrison attended to us throughout the weekend amid our outdoors adventures including a thrilling paddle down the mighty Colorado River, a beautiful evening hike in Arches National Park, and night games in the park.
- **Fall Retreat, October 2019:** Rev Jennifer Tucker was our Priest for the weekend at Camp Tuttle where we enjoyed a weekend of self-care and relaxation. Campers participated in a Camp Tuttle spa and practiced meditation and self-care in the form of facials, a foot soaking spa, making vision boards, and sensory engagement techniques. After a day of relaxation, we threw our annual Halloween bash! Campers got to flaunt their costumes, paint a pumpkin, decorate cookies, and danced the night away.
- **Ice Skating Youth Christmas Party 2019:** Held at the Gallivan Ice skating rink. The scenery was beautiful, with ice skaters, Christmas lights and music downtown Salt Lake City.
- **Winter Retreat February 2020:** Youth from grades 6-12 joined us for an overnight stay at Camp Tuttle for a day and night of snowshoeing, sledding, music, games, and fun. The theme was “Laugh Out Loud” and campers and counselors hosted and participated in a variety show during the evening that provided space for laughter and silliness, something that can be tricky to find in the current climate. The Rev. Kurt Wiesner was able to join us for the weekend and he engaged campers in conversation about finding joy and finding happiness in the monotony of day-to-day life. Little did we know, these conversations helped arm youth with helpful strategies for the upcoming and ongoing global pandemic.
- **Spring Retreat 2020:** This retreat was scheduled to be held at St. Mary’s Church in Provo. This event was postponed due to COVID. We hope to offer this event in Spring of 2021. We have plans to visit the CLAS Ropes Course High Adventure Park in Provo and put ourselves outside of our comforts zone--our favorite place to be!
- **Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) 2020:** We had a group of 20 high schoolers and four chaperones registered for EYE 2020 which was going to be held at the University of Maryland. This event has been cancelled due to COVID.

### **Upcoming Youth events:**

- **2020 Fall Retreat:** In late September under the changing leaves and in the crisp cool air of fall, junior and senior high youth will join us on separate days to enjoy time together and outside. We will model our day retreats much like our summer day camps, following the state and CDC’s guidelines on how to best prevent the spread of COVID-19. Masks will be worn, and social-distance guidelines will be kept.
- **Young Adults:** We would like to continue programs to include and engage our young adults from recently graduated youth to age 25.

**Ongoing Goals:**

1. Continue to build a safe, fun environment where youth feel connected with God and each other
2. Build a youth leadership team to help with Happening and New Beginnings youth retreats
3. Continue to coordinate diocesan-wide events for junior and senior high youth
4. Maintain up to date contact information for youth ministry contacts

Submitted by,

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