



Looking back in 2017 at the [FUMC Youth Group Programs](#) (middle and high school students) – and looking forward to 2018!!!!

What an amazing year it has been! I can't believe it's coming to an end. Honestly, I don't know where the time has gone, and I say that each year. The FUMC Youth Group, grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, packed in a ton of great activities, here are just a few!

- Strawberry Picking
- Family Trivia Night and Dinner
- Orlando Holy Land Theme Park
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park
- Game Nights
- Cool Science Creation Night
- Spanish Cooking and Eating
- Christmas in August
- Andretti's Thrill Park
- Indoor Bounce Soccer
- Scavenger Hunts
- Movies
- Super Play USA
- Islamorada's Theater of the Sea
- Universal's Volcano Bay Waterpark
- Medieval Times Dinner Theater
- Tubing at Kelly Springs Park
- Planting a Hydroponic Garden with the Preschoolers

Our youth volunteered their time and efforts during year in mission projects. Forty youth members gave up an entire week to work as camp counselors for the FUMC Children's Vacation Bible School. Nine youth worked hard on the week-long Mission Trip to South Carolina to repair roofs, floors and decks. I am truly proud of their desire to be in service to others. Youth are making Him known!

Youth participated in many other mission projects like:

- Operation Love Your Neighbor
- Hosting and feeding college students from the State University of New York.
- Multiple trips to Shining Light Gardens to weed, plant and harvest veggies. Youth donated a fruit tree to help feed the needy.
- They collected chore money and donations to send "care packages" to our United States Military men and women.
- Youth cleaned up the Indian River Cal Ripken, National League Ballpark to prep for the new baseball season.
- Egg-Stravaganza Easter Outreach
- Collecting Can Good's for the Samaritan Center.
- Showing teens we care by sending 150 "T-Shirt Comfort Gifts" to needy and homeless youth in Vero Beach and Moorehaven, Florida.
- Preschool Mentoring

Our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known" is evident in our programming:

- Sunday Night YG Fellowship

- Wednesday Youth After-School Program
- Praise and Worship Band
- Youth Sunday School Class
- 2017 Confirmation Class
- Youth Ushers and Church Helpers
- Campus Life (Freshman High School Student Christian Club) led by Kristen Britt and DeShayne Silvey
- Core (Upper High School Student Christian Leaders Club) led by Kristen Britt and DeShayne Silvey

Youth have been fundraising for their programs and activities. S.O.Y. (Support Our Youth) is a fund set up at FUMC for Youth Group (tween & teen) Programs. All monies raised and donated go towards our vision “To know CHRIST and to make HIM known” to youth in Vero Beach. We’ve raised funds from the following in 2017: The Annual Chili Bowl & Bingo and The Cross Christmas Wreath Fundraiser.

Here’s “just a taste” of what’s yet to come for 2018:

- Annual Chili Bowl and Bingo Youth Fundraiser
- Monthly “Role Model Speakers”
- The October “Prayer Service” and Celebration Dinner
- Summer Youth Camp
- Local Missions
- Operation Love Your Neighbor

There will be more info to come on each of these events. Make sure to check the FUMC website at [www.verobeachfumc.org](http://www.verobeachfumc.org) and the new youth newsletter “Focus” for updates and information.

Please support our youth with your daily prayers. Financial support may be made through cash or check to FUMC, memo denote SOY (Support Our Youth).

God bless you and Happy New Year ☺,

Kristen Britt, First United Methodist Church Youth Director