

2024 YOUTH COVENANT

The Carthage United Methodist Church Youth Group exists to help shape the hearts, minds, and lives of young people in Smith County and beyond in a Christ-centric, Spirit-empowered way by providing a space for learning, growth, fellowship, and fun.

It is our hope that each member of the program cultivates a deep and genuine relationship with the Lord, a passion and appreciation for the Scriptures, a desire to grow in godly wisdom, a kinship with their brothers and sisters in Christ, and the boldness to live a life fueled by faith.

Failure to adhere to the terms below will result in disciplinary action at the leader's discretion per the seriousness of the offense including (but not limited to): prohibition from playing sports before/after the Wednesday night gathering, notification of and conversation regarding behavior to parents, and early dismissal or potential suspension from the Wednesday night gathering.

As members, we agree to the following terms of this covenant:

All who participate are loved and made in the image of God, and are thus entitled to respect, dignity, and kindness. Our speech and conduct will be filtered through those values.

Honesty, humility, and vulnerability are necessary. Be honest about what you think, humble about what you don't understand, and vulnerable enough to lean on others in the group.

Hard questions are encouraged and will be recognized as opportunities to grow in our understanding of God and this Christian life. Leaders and participants are expected to be open about their faith.

Active participation and listening is expected (and so is fun). Honor the Wednesday night gathering time with your attention. Be bold in answering questions, even if you get the answer "wrong". Be generous with the wisdom you do have to share, and be open to gaining more from your leaders and peers.

If a leader (i.e. Tucker, Kristi, or another adult) or student is speaking or sharing an answer, other members of the group will be respectful and silent.

Treat the Gathering Area with care. Clean up after yourselves and ensure the room is as it was when you came. Members will not be dismissed until all tables, chairs, trash, and personal items are put away, regardless of whose they were to begin with.

Becoming people of prayer will be a core part of our discipleship path. We will actively pray for one another's needs and invite others to pray for us.

All external conflict (i.e. drama) will be left at the door. If the conflict is internal (i.e. with a member of the group) or the external matter requires leader attention, that can be addressed at a time outside of the Wednesday night gathering.