



**2022- 2023 Youth Programs**  
**A Burlington UCC Collaboration:**  
*The College Street Church & First Congregational Church UCC*



**SEE PAGE 2 of this doc for WEEKLY UPDATES  
& to learn about the great PENNY CHALLENGE!**

**YOUTH PROGRAMS:** We are happy to share that our collaboration with the College Street Church will be on-going with [Jason Vanderlaan, Youth Ministries Leader](#), now officially serving on the staffs of both First Church and the College Street Church! The fall calendar for youth programs is taking shape. For details (see below) – and please make sure that you [subscribe to our Church Newsletter](#). Families with middle and high school youth are encouraged to contact Hilah Clarke, Director of Faith Formation ([hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org)) to be added to the e-list for youth program updates.

***Here's the latest from Jason:***

The youth groups from both College Street and First Church combine have now combined more officially, we're excited to be creating space for continuing to pray and play together.

Our schedule - for Middle and High School Youth – involves meeting **every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm**. We begin by sharing a meal together (probably pizza!) for the first 30 minutes, before moving into our activities for the night, which will vary from week to week, but will include combinations of: games, service opportunities, Scripture and prayer, discussions, etc.

**One really fun addition** to the schedule is that one Wednesday a month, instead of regular youth group, our pastors, Elissa and Ken, will be leading an intergenerational youth group where parents, family, and adults are invited to join the youth to pray and play together!

In addition to weekly Wednesday gatherings, **there will also be one youth group meeting a month on a weekend**, to accommodate for those with different schedules and to make space for different service opportunities or longer youth groups - things like the Spectrum Sleepout, movie nights, an overnight lock-in, etc.). **Our current plan looks like this:**

**Upcoming Wednesday Youth Groups, 6:00-8:00pm**

**November (Location: College Street Church): 30**

**December (Location: 1st Church): 7, 14, 21**

• **Weekend Youth Groups**

**December 10 (Sat, 6-8pm): Christmas Party, Location TBA**

I'm really looking forward to what this new school year holds and hope you're enjoying your summer. Let me know if you have any questions and I'll see you soon.

- **Jason** Jason Vanderlaan, Youth Ministries Leader, [jvanderlaan@collegestreetchurch.org](mailto:jvanderlaan@collegestreetchurch.org)

& FirstChurchBTV staff: Hilah Clarke, Director of Faith Formation, [hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:hclarke@firstchurchburlington.org)

**YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE from Jason:** "We spent a lot of time in the dark in youth group this past month! First, we gathered around the post-Halloween questions of: ghosts and hauntings! Lots of interesting discussion and exploring the various perspectives in culture, Christianity, and the Bible. Plus we got to play a werewolf game and ball-tag in the dark!

Then we had a blast with glow-in-the-dark & blacklight games and challenges. Have you ever seen a hundred glowsticks flying through the dark at once? It is so much fun!

On a lighter note, During our Fall Retreat we explored modern-day retellings of the story of Advent. Various versions involved the Alaskan Iditarod, the New York subway, and Jesus being named Rebecca.

We also had a fun and reflective time with Advent-themed prayer stations... keep your eyes and ears open, as they may be making an appearance near you soon!"



**Youth Group: Fall Retreat** During our Fall Retreat we explored modern-day retellings of the story of Advent. Various versions involved the Alaskan Iditarod, the New York subway, and Jesus being named Rebecca.

## **& NOW... the great Penny challenge has begun!**

### **If you start with a penny... could you have a house in a month?**

Years ago, Kyle MacDonald started with a red paper clip, which he traded up for a fish pen, and he kept trading up and up until he had a house! It took him a whole year, but...

More recently, Ryan Trahan started with a penny and in one month he used it (through trading up, some entrepreneurial ideas, and some generous strangers) to cross the country in 30 days to deliver a penny to MrBeast.

#### **So... what can you do with a penny in 30 days?**

Last night, **we handed out pennies** to everyone at youth group. If you weren't able to be there and would still like to join in, just ask Hilah or myself for a penny and we'll give you one. Or you can just search through the couch cushions at home. :-)

Here are the rules/guidelines.

1. You start with one penny.

2. You attempt to trade it with someone for something more valuable.
3. You can keep "trading up" or sell an item you've traded for and use that money to buy a new item - either way, keep trying to get more valuable items each time!
4. Take a photo of each trade (whenever possible and whenever the person trading with you is willing). Either way, make sure you keep a record of each trade.
5. You can only trade with a person once. (So no trading with mom or grandpa 10 times... just once).
6. Keep trading! Trade with your friends at school, your neighbors, your family over Thanksgiving weekend, church members, youth group leaders....
7. At the end of the month, bring the item you currently have to youth group (Dec 21).
8. There will be prizes! For the "most valuable" item, "most unique", etc.

But wait, there's more! Why are we doing this all? Because it is fun? For sure. But also because we're **raising money for our mission trip this summer**.

Once we've gathered all the items, we'll announce an auction and invite the churches and family to bid on all our items! This will also be an opportunity to share your penny journey - each trade in photo or written form - with everyone. :-)

Let's do this, woohoo!

Let me know if you have any questions.

**Please RSVP...** and see you soon!

*Jason*

**Jason Vanderlaan**

Youth Ministry Leader

College Street Congregational Church

First Congregational Church of Burlington, UCC

[jvanderlaan@collegestreetchurch.org](mailto:jvanderlaan@collegestreetchurch.org)

802-777-9841