

22 August 2011

Dear SuperFLY Families,

Here we are again at the tail end of summer! I'm always sad to see summer go, but also ready for a great new year of ministry together with you at church and in the community. I've been hard at work this summer drafting and redrafting schedules and calendars to try and meet your needs. We are extremely blessed at our church to have wonderful volunteers who make it possible for us to offer lots of options for all ages.

I know that the schedule and calendar will not be 100% ideal for every person at all times. However, I have listened carefully to your input and ideas and done the best I could do to compromise with your requests. The result, I believe, is a calendar full of really great options for you to jump in to ministry here at NHUMC! We've simplified our Wednesday night schedule so that you will have time for dinner and socializing and added lots of Sunday afternoon activities.

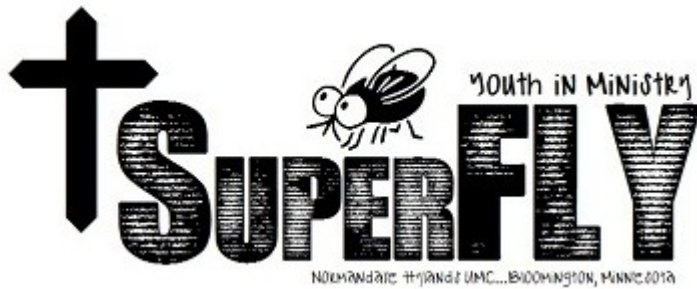
This fall, we are also re-launching our youth group website – www.nhumcsuperfly.org – where you'll be able to find everything you need to be active here. All forms and mailings, including the calendar, will be available to view or print on the website. Announcements and information will be posted for you as well. Our website will even be linked with our Facebook page – I AM SuperFLY – so “like” us on Facebook to stay informed!

Enclosed with this mailing you'll find more details about our variety of ministries and activities and sign up sheets for Fall events. Please do your best to sign up in advance for activities. As always, if event costs are keeping you away, come talk to me. We've got scholarship funds available for you!

You are in my prayers as you head back for a new year at school. If you need any help or someone to talk to, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email any time. I'm here for you.

Love,
Rachael

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2011 – 2012 SuperFLY Offerings

miniFLY – 4th and 5th grades

miniFLY is a fellowship gathering for our younger youth to help them (and their parents) get acquainted with the youth group experience. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 5:40pm in room 124 on the lower level. During miniFLY we play games, do team building activities, and talk about our faith. About twice a year, miniFLY will have fun outings on Sunday afternoons.

Scary, Gross, and Weird – 6th and 7th grades

SGW explores the strangest stories of the Bible and uses the most interesting methods to bring them to life. The actual events of this group cannot be revealed here for fear of ruining the fun for future generations! Suffice it to say that activities include frozen turkeys, marshmallows, costumes, and duct tape! You won't regret joining this group on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 6:00pm in room 125 on the lower level.

Confirmation – 8th and 9th grades

Our Confirmation program at NHUMC spans two years of class time, fellowship, service, mission work, opportunities to experience the life of the church, and encountering Scripture and the basics of the Christian faith. Confirmation students follow a program designed to maximize their understanding of the commitment a Christian makes when joining a community of faith. The program culminates in the service of Confirmation, at the end of the second year, when students take their vows of membership before the congregation and their families. Confirmation classes meet on Wednesday evenings, 5:00 – 6:00pm, in room 226 (year 1) and 217 (year 2).

15:24 Bible Study

This new Bible study group will meet on Wednesday nights, 5:00 – 6:15pm in the Cement Room on the lower level. Youth and young adults ages 15-24 are invited to come study God's word in the context of current issues. No homework will be required to participate in this group. Our first book of the year will be *When Christians Get it Wrong* by Adam Hamilton – a look at some of the issues that turn us off from the church and how we can resolve them as Christians.

SuperFLY and PIE! - 8th - 12th grades

Who doesn't like pie...or cookies or muffins or hot cocoa? All 8th-12th graders are invited to meet at NHUMC on Wednesday nights at 6:45pm by the front doors and walk to Perkins (or meet us at Perkins) and over treats discuss things that caught our attention throughout the week. Bring your favorite song lyrics, a poem, a magazine article, photograph, a book you've read, or anything else interesting that you'd like to discuss. And bring your own money if you need a Perkins food fix! This group will begin meeting in October 2011.

Joy Choir, Lightshiners Choir, and Youth Handbells

Sharing music in worship is an excellent way to be in ministry to our congregation. Our Joy Choir for grades 2-5 practices on Wednesday nights, 6:05 – 6:50pm in the choir room. The Lightshiners, grades 6-12, rehearse on Wednesdays also, 6:45 – 7:45pm in the Lightshiners Room (227). Youth Handbells meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. These groups take turns sharing in worship services on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School

Our Sunday school classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45am on the lower level. All ages of youth are welcome to attend! We focus on lessons from the Bible and how we can relate to them as children of God.

SPECIAL EVENTS September through December 2011

(refer to your Confirmation materials for information about Confirmation events)

SEPTEMBER:

Rally Day Picnic – Sunday 9/11, 5:00 – 6:30pm – All Ages

Come by the church parking lot for free food, frisbee, a foosball tournament, and a professional face painter. This is our kickoff event for the entire church family.

Girls of Grace Event – Friday and Saturday 9/16-17 - \$20 – Grades 6-12

This is an event at Grace Church in Eden Prairie for GIRLS ONLY that includes music, worship, and great speakers. Come to be renewed in your faith! Sleep over at Tracy's house the night before, or meet there on Saturday morning to go to the event as a group. Moms interested in coming along are also invited. **Please register by returning the enclosed registration form by 9/14.**

SuperFLY at Wesley – Saturday 9/17, 9:00am – All Ages

We meet at church at 9am and travel together to Wesley UMC in Minneapolis to prepare a meal, set tables, and serve 150 hungry and homeless friends. If you are interested in coming to help, contact Ross Dunbar at 952-835-6399.

All Church Game Night and Belize Movie Night – Saturday 9/24, 5:30pm – All Ages

Bring a potluck dish and a friend and we'll hang out with church friends and play board games after dinner. Then, when it gets dark, we'll have an outdoor movie and concession stand hosted by the Belize Mission Team as a fundraiser!

SuperFLY at Chipotle – Sunday 9/25, 12:30pm – Grades 6-12

Bring money for lunch and good shoes for a walk. We'll walk together from church to Chipotle, eat together, and walk back.

OCTOBER:

SuperFARM – Sunday 10/2, 12:30 – 5:30pm – Grades 4-5

This is a miniFLY event, but feel free to bring a friend, parent, or sibling along. Pack a bag lunch to eat in the car as we travel to the Warner family farm in Harris, MN. We'll have a hayride, bonfire, snacks, scavenger hunt, and crafts before packing up and heading home!

SuperFLY Lunch and a Movie – Sunday 10/9, 12:30 – 3:00pm – Grades 6-12

Stick around after church for a monthly movie afternoon with your church friends. We'll eat together (subs, pizza, etc.) as we take in a movie and then have a brief discussion about the movie. Separate movies will show for junior and senior high youth. Bring a couple bucks to pitch in for food and a friend who likes movies!

SuperFLY: Amazing Race Team Scavenger Hunt – Sunday 10/16, 12:30 – 3:00pm – Grades 6-12

All you have to do is show up for this scavenger hunt across Bloomington. You'll pick teams, pair up with a driver, and get your first clue. Clues will lead you all over town with tasks to complete before you receive your next clue. The first team back after completing the race will win an awesome prize! Prizes will also be awarded for second and third place teams. Bring friends!

MEA Mission-at-Home Service Projects – 10/19-23 – All Ages

Spend your MEA weekend doing something meaningful for others! You'll be given a chance to sign up for “shifts” that you are available to work and then matched up with a work team. Teams will do jobs for members of our church and community who need our help.

SuperFLY Fall Pizza/Church Decorating Party – 10/30, 12:30 – 3:00pm – All Ages

We'll have pizza after church and then let our creative juices flow as we decorate the church for the harvest season. Some projects might include creating art from fall items, painting the windows, decorating pumpkins, and more!

NOVEMBER:

JUMYS! - 11/4-6 – Grades 5-8

JUMYS is a state-wide UMC retreat for junior high youth held in Saint Cloud. We'll take a group to JUMYS this year at a subsidized cost of \$80/person. Friends are welcome. Registration forms are enclosed in this mailing and available on our website. **REGISTRATION for JUMYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 28!**

All Church Game Night – Saturday 11/12, 5:30pm – All Ages

Bring a potluck dish and a friend and we'll hang out with church friends and play board games, card games, and perhaps even table games like foosball or pool after dinner.

SuperFLY Lunch and a Movie – Sunday 11/13, 12:30 – 3:00pm – Grades 6-12

Stick around after church for a monthly movie afternoon with your church friends. We'll eat together (subs, pizza, etc.) as we take in a movie and then have a brief discussion about the movie. Separate movies will show for junior and senior high youth. Bring a couple bucks to pitch in for food and a friend who likes movies!

Simpson Fall Festival Party – Monday 11/14 – All Ages

Sign up to volunteer with this awesome event – a fall party for families experiencing homelessness and trying to get back on their feet. You can help cook, serve food, play games with kids, give out gifts, etc. Watch for sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall!

SuperFLY at Wesley – Saturday 11/19, 9:00am – All Ages

We meet at church at 9am and travel together to Wesley UMC in Minneapolis to prepare a meal, set tables, and serve 150 hungry and homeless friends. If you are interested in coming to help, contact Ross Dunbar at 952-835-6399.

SuperFLY Football Party – Sunday 11/20, 12:00 – 3:00pm – Grades 6-12

Pizza and hoagies in the Cement Room while we watch the Vikings take on the Raiders! Bring \$3 toward food costs and chips or cookies to share.

SuperFLY Speaker Phone Scavenger Hunt – Sunday 11/27, 12:00-2:30pm – Grades 6-12

Bring \$3 to pitch in for lunch. We'll play a fun game that involves making phone calls and trying to get the person on the other end of the line to say the words on your list. We'll meet in the Cement Room.

DECEMBER:

Dakotah Lock-In – Friday December 2, 10:00pm – 6:00am – Grades 6-12

I'm still waiting on the details for this event – when I get them, you'll get them!

Singing at St. Mary's – Saturday 12/3 – 1:30pm – All Ages

The Joy Choir will be taking their show on the road to bless residents of this Saint Paul nursing home. Any youth interested in coming along are also invited. If you'd like to get a small ensemble together to learn a holiday piece of music to perform, let Rachael know. Or come for the caroling and treats! Stella will be there to visit her friends!

SuperFLY Perkins Lunch – Sunday 12/4 – 12:30 – 2:00pm – Grades 6-12

Bring money for brunch/lunch after church. We'll walk to Perkins, eat together, and discuss our fall season of youth group. You'll have a chance to give your feedback or suggest events for winter/spring.

SuperFLY Lunch and a Movie – Sunday 12/11, 12:30 – 3:00pm – Grades 6-12

Stick around after church for a monthly movie afternoon with your church friends. We'll eat together (subs, pizza, etc.) as we take in a movie and then have a brief discussion about the movie. Separate movies will show for junior and senior high youth. Bring a couple bucks to pitch in for food and a friend who likes movies!

SuperFLY Christmas Caroling – Sunday 12/18, 12:30 – 3:00pm – All Ages

We'll eat lunch together after church in Fellowship Hall and then head out to share carols with church members at their homes.