

Youth Ministry: Resuming Connection

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The youth and I are so grateful for all we were able to do this summer. Things started to feel a bit more “normal.”

We were able to resume our weekly beach gatherings on Wednesday afternoons for fun, fellowship, and ice cream, and we were able to safely fit in a getaway to camp. I can't tell you enough how important our summer service trips are for our community to unplug from the grind of school, work, and sports. It provides us a unique opportunity to connect with God, ourselves, and one another, away from all the distractions and things that get in our way.

Some of our main focuses at camp were to reconnect with one another face-to-face, check in and be honest about how we're really doing, and process the ways we and the world have changed over the past year and a half. Camp for us is Holy Ground—we get to take off the masks of who and what we're “supposed” to be according to social media and the pressures of school, work, and our unknown futures. We choose to abandon the guise of “having it all together” because sometimes it's hard to remember that no one does.

While we did help out around camp, catching/clipping the wings of 90 chickens and working in the garden and compost piles, our main service for this year was care for our community—in order that we go forward knowing we are loved, seen, and welcomed exactly as we are, and work to carry that out into our world wherever we go.

