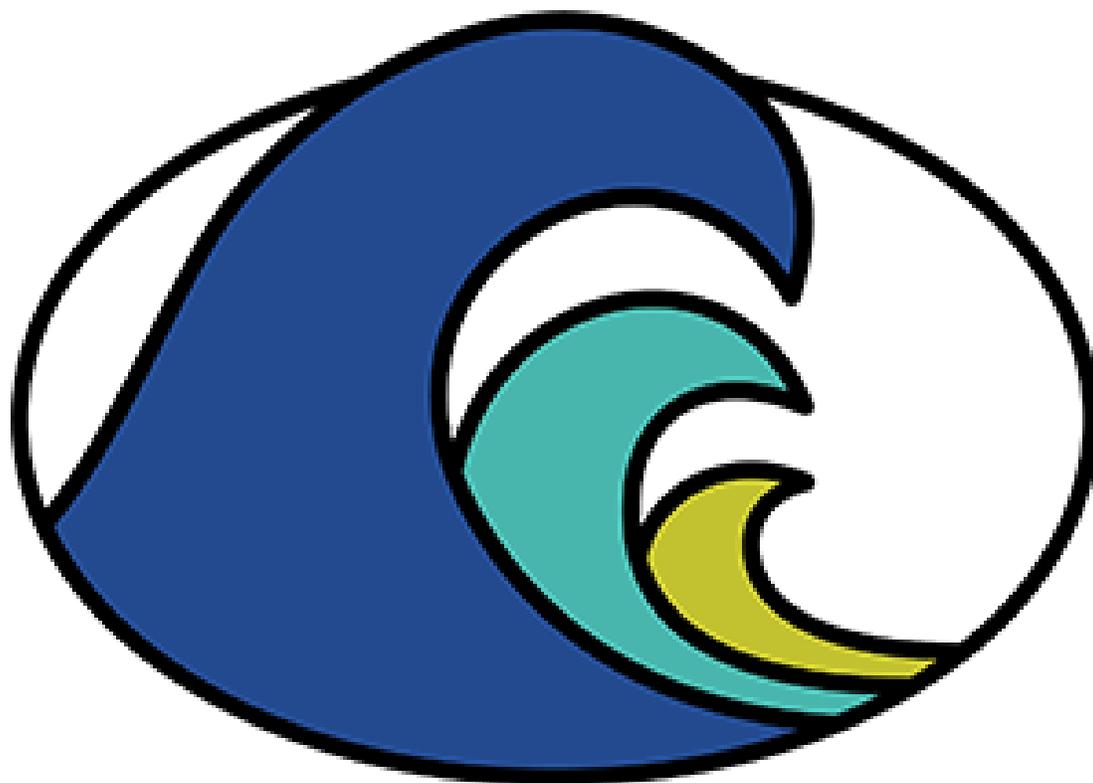


Middle School Parent Pack 2018 - 2019



h a r b o r
STUDENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact Information Page 1

Meet the Leaders Page 2

Meet the Youth Paster Page 5

Fundraiser Page 6

Profession of Faith Page 6

Calendar Page 7

CONTACT INFORMATION

You can reach me anytime through the following ways:

E-mail: matt@southharbor.org | Facebook: Matt Koomen | Cell Phone: (616) 886 - 2582

For information about upcoming youth group nights and events I will send out information through the following:

E-mail: Constant Contact

Facebook: Like our page – “South Harbor Student Ministries”

If you are not connected, but would like to be just let me know so we can make sure you are getting weekly updates.

MEET THE LEADERS

EZRA DE JONGE | 6TH GRADE BOYS



Hi, my name is Ezra and this is my first year leading in youth group. I'm excited to meet and get to know your kids this year! I just graduated from Hudsonville High School and will be starting at Davenport University in the fall to get a major in computers. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my dog Cooper, as well as spending time with my family and friends. I fancy myself a connoisseur in fast food (mostly Taco Bell), and I love going to see the Marvel movies in theaters opening weekends. I can't wait to get started and show God's love this year!

CHAD VELDHOUSE | 6TH GRADE BOYS

My wife Jess and I have two girls Lenox who is 3 and Poppy is just 1. Having a family of our own has increased my depth of empathy and compassion for youth. I want to share my experiences and faith with kids in their everyday lives. I had a lot of great people in my life helping me as I was growing up. I really love to help people...especially young adults so it will benefit both me and them.

My hobbies include hunting, flying, traveling, being outdoors, and hanging out at the beach 😊.



JESS VELDHOUSE | 6TH GRADE GIRLS

Proud mother of 2 sassy and beautiful little girls, I find mothering the most amazing and deeply rewarding experience of my life. I am so thankful for the community of friends and family that have poured into our lives. Sadly, during my teen years I made poor choices. My commitment to following Christ was not solidified. I found worldly treasure and friends opinions held more value than upholding my faith. Having lived a great amount since those days and having made Christ the center of my life and decision making today I feel compelled to give my time and ears to teens. I love teens! I love watching them become 'people', seeing them developing personalities and watching them grow. I pray that we can enrich lives through our journey and testimony.

My hobbies include cooking, running, reading, anything outdoors, sunshine – at the park, beach, or patio, spending time with my family, traveling and exploring new towns, arts and craft projects, and painting.



ALLI TILLEMA | 6TH GRADE GIRLS

Hi this is my first year being a leader with the youth group, and I am super excited for the opportunity to share the love of Christ with all these students. I graduated from South Christian last year and I will be starting college at Grand Rapids Community College this fall! I enjoy all sorts of activities such as playing cards, hanging out with my dog Beau, and spending time outdoors (until bees come around).

JESSICA JACQUES | 6TH GRADE GIRLS

My name is Jessica and my husband, Philip, and I have been attending South Harbor for a year now. The biggest thing that attracted us to South Harbor was Pastor Tim's sermons. We love that they're relatable and applicable but still grounded in scripture. I'm looking forward to getting more involved with our church and meeting people through this leadership position with the middle school girls' small group!

I graduated from Cornerstone University in December of 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. I'm currently working at Novo Chiropractic and I'm in the beginning stages of getting my graduate teaching certification to teach middle school!

In my free time, I love to hang out with my husband and two dogs, Oliver and Cora. I also enjoy running, animals, sunshine, kids, coffee, tea, fruit, camping, baking, and hanging out with family and friends. I can't wait to start forming relationships with my students and fellow youth group leaders!



JOSH STUIVE | 7TH GRADE BOYS



Hey! I'm Josh and here is some stuff about me: I work in sales for a company that distributes packaging equipment and related supplies, spending most of my days driving around and meeting with customers in the greater West Michigan area. Occasionally I find time to do something other than work and enjoy spending that time playing soccer and volleyball on rec leagues and water skiing with my buddies. I have been attending South Harbor for the better part of four years now and will usually be found at

the 11 am service unless my parents bribe me with lunch after the 9am. Growing up, my church youth group was a major part of my personal and spiritual journey. It sparked lifelong friendships and mentorships. For that reason, it is my goal to pass these experiences on to the next generation that they may see Christ in both the world and people around them.

EMMA HOEKSTRA | 7TH GRADE GIRLS

Hi, my name is Emma and I am a goldsmith. I get to make jewelry for a living! I work four days a week for local jewelry artists and spend my nights as well as two other days during the week working for myself. Some of my hobbies are playing volleyball and softball. I am really excited to work with student ministries because I think it is really important for young people to have adults that they can feel comfortable talking to and be able to go to for advice. I have some amazing mentors in my life that have helped me to grow spiritual and now I hope to be that for someone else.



JENN RAINER | 7TH GRADE GIRLS

My name is Jenn and this will be my 5th year helping with youth group at South Harbor. Before I came here, I was a youth leader with middle school students for 4 years and high school for 1 year. Right now I work full time at Farmers Insurance and go to school full time at Cornerstone University (business management). I'm excited to see what this year has in store for the students!



JAKE WINTERS | 8TH GRADE BOYS

Hi, my name is Jake Winters, and this will be my 4th year being a leader with the youth group. I am currently a student at Calvin College with an Education Major and I currently work for South Harbor as the Elementary Kids Ministry Coordinator. Some things I enjoy other than youth group would have to be watching sports, playing sports, going out to eat, and camping. I really enjoy going on vacation to different places all around the country also!

KENDRA AVINK | 8TH GRADE GIRLS

I've been working with the student ministries for several years now and I love to see how these kids grow in their faith every year! It's also fun to be a kid again with them! Currently I work for Shipt Home Delivery, and I absolutely love it, being able to meet new people daily! In my spare time, I like to restore old furniture or sit back with a good book or hockey game!



KERRY OOSTDYK | 8TH GRADE GIRLS



My name is Kerry Oostdyk. I love spending time with my husband Ethan and baby boy Samuel. Our favorite hobbies include biking and hunting together as a family! I work as a high school math teacher in Wayland, and influencing youth in my community is my passion! I have been serving in teenage ministries since I was just out of high school myself. As a youth leader I love sharing the gospel and joy of my Savior with teens.

MEET THE YOUTH PASTOR: MATT KOOMEN

My name is Matt Koomen and I have been attending South Harbor for 5 years now. I originally started as an intern in 2013 and have been the Youth Pastor for 4 years now. I have a Youth Ministry and Bible Theology degree from Kuyper College, and last fall I started at Western Theological Seminary to pursue a MDiv. I am very excited to continue my education to help students grow closer to God!



In my free time, I enjoy being outside whether it is hiking, hunting, boating or skiing. I also enjoy going to auctions and buying and selling items. On most Saturdays, you will either find me in a hunting blind or traveling West Michigan looking for an auction!

As much as I enjoy going to auctions and being outside, my deepest passion is for students. I grew up in a Christian family where church was my second home. I went to youth group all of my life, but it wasn't until a special experience with my youth group that I finally made my parents faith my own. My heart breaks when students leave their parents, go off to college, but don't really know who God is for themselves. Sticky Faith organized a study of students who were actively engaged in their youth programming. The statistics show that only 50% of the students who were engaged in church will actually stick with their faith through college. That terrifies me and I hope it terrifies you.

With your help, and the help of all our leaders, I want to put an end to that. During events like youth group, youth week, and retreats my goal is to create an experience for students to not only learn more about God, but to make a commitment to Him. I believe there is a huge difference between knowing information about God and actually having a personal relationship with Him – I want your kids to have the latter. By leaders building relationships with your students, by learning more about God, and by learning how to make disciples, student ministries can help foster that relationship.

There is one thing I ask of you as parents – consistency. The leaders that we have in place for your students will be consistent. They are there for your kids and will walk alongside your kids through some difficult years. In order for myself and our leaders to build deep and lasting relationships with your student, I am asking to create a habit that Sunday night is youth group night. I know life is busy; I know that your children have homework, sports, band, choir, and many other activities to juggle. I think having youth group as a constant in a student's life is how we can get rid of a majority of the youth leaving the church during their college years. If we are able to show them what a life living for Christ is like and our relationships with Him, I think they will continue to want the same.

FUNDRAISERS

In order to reduce the cost of trips students go on, there will be some fundraising opportunities. Students will be paid for the hours they work at fundraisers. The money they earn will go directly to their student account which can be used for trips.

MYSTERY DINNER | WINTER 2019

In the winter we will plan a mystery dinner, where guests are invited to solve a mystery as they eat. Students will be able to earn money by either acting in the cast or preparing food/serving!



Please do not let financial issues stop your student from attending a trip or event. We have a scholarship fund set up for students who would love to go on a trip, but are not able to come up with the money. We love to see that all students are able to go on a trip so please talk to me about how the church can come along side you and get your student on the trips!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Our profession of faith process involves your student being paired with a mentor to discuss questions about their faith and taking part in a class where they learn what it means to be part of the church. If your student is interested in learning more information, please e-mail me! I'd love to talk with them about taking the next step in their faith.

CALENDAR |

SUNDAY NIGHTS

MEETING TIME: 4:30PM – 6:00PM

AUG

26: Fall Kickoff - Footgolf | Meet at Church | 6:00PM – 8:00PM

SEPT

2: No Youth Group – *Labor Day*

9: UP Night

16: IN Night

23: UP Night

30: OUT Night – *Serving with Hand 2 Hand* | Meet at Church

OCT

5 – 7: Fall Retreat | Ludington State Park | Time TBD

7: No Youth Group – *Fall Retreat*

14: UP Night

21: OUT Night

27 (SATURDAY): Church Trunk or Treat; Youth Group Haunted Maze at 7PM

28: No Youth Group

NOV

4: UP Night

11: IN Night

18: UP Night

25: No Youth Group – *Thanksgiving Break*

DEC

2: UP Night

9: OUT Night

16: Christmas Party

23: No Youth Group – *Christmas Break*

30: No Youth Group – *Christmas Break*

JAN

6: UP Night

13: IN Night

20: UP Night

27: OUT Night

FEB

3: No Youth Group - *Superbowl*

8 – 10: Winter Retreat | Camp Geneva | Time TBD

17: UP Night

24: OUT Night

MAR

3: UP Night

10: IN Night

17: UP Night

24: OUT Night

31: No Youth Group – *Spring Break*

APR

7: No Youth Group – *Spring Break*

14: UP Night

21: No Youth Group - *Easter*

28: UP Night

MAY

5: End of the Year Party!



