

Greetings,

As we eye the return to school and the program year, I'd like to give you an update on plans for G.R.E.Y. and announce some events scheduled for the next several weeks. Please note that any of this is subject to change and I will communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Kids' Food Basket Farm Volunteering-Next Week Wednesday

We have a service opportunity with [Kids' Food Basket](#) (KFB) on August 25, from 5:30-7:30, for ages 5 and up. There are about 20 slots; I am already signed up and you can sign up at this link below. You will need to create a volunteer account, if you haven't already done so:

<https://kfb.volunteerhub.com/>

Please let me know if you/your child have signed up for this opportunity and thanks in advance. KFB is grateful for helping hands!

Ice Cream and Games in Grand Rapids

Two Sundays from now, on **August 29**, we'll meet up at [Frosty Boy](#) on Plainfield for ice cream and then walk over to [Briggs Park](#) for games. We'll meet at 1 and conclude by 3. Please respond here if your child plans to attend.

Mayors' Grand River Cleanup

On **Wednesday, September 15**, St. Mark's will once again participate in the West Michigan Environmental Action Council's (WMEAC) Mayors' Grand River Cleanup. We will meet at [Highland Park](#), our cleanup site, and work there from 5:45-7:15. Supplies will be provided. Please email me and Anne Hiskes if you'd like to join our team and they will provide further instructions as they become available: jeffatgrey@gmail.com and alhiskes@gmail.com.

I am waiting on confirmation from WMEAC on a second date and location for a St. Andrew's team. If interested, please pencil in 6:30-8 pm on Thursday, September 16 and let me know that you'd like to help. I will send on more details once they are confirmed.

Plainsong Farm Service Project

We also have a volunteer opportunity at [Plainsong Farm](#), a cooperating ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, in Rockford on **Wednesday September 22, from 5-7 p.m.** Please fill out the attached form if you and/or your child plan to participate and bring it with you to the farm.

All the above service projects are available to all, so they would be great family outings and also opportunities for high schoolers to earn community service hours.

Leadership Opportunities

Speaking of opportunities, there are a couple of leadership opportunities for youth that may be of interest:

- **Kids' Food Basket Youth Action Board**- for any incoming high school students grade 9-12, we are still accepting applications for our Youth Action Board: <https://kidsfoodbasket.org/opportunities/youth-action-board/>
- **Grand Valley State University Kaufman Interfaith Institute Youth Interfaith Leadership Scholars**- offered to youth entering grades 8-12; applications due by August 27: <https://www.gvsu.edu/interfaith/kaufman-interfaith-leadership-scholars-127.htm>

Youth Group

Our Wednesday night youth group gatherings have not typically begun until October. As of now, I am anticipating a return to some regular virtual meetups, but am considering all options. Stay tuned for further updates.

Upcoming:

-Cedar Point Trip: weekend of October 8-10

-Charge (Gathering Youth Grades 6-12) at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City: weekend of March 18-20, 2022

Peace,
Jeff

Director of Youth Ministries

St. Mark's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches-Grand Rapids, MI

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