

THE SCOOP

The Definitive Scoop on All FPC Equipping Ministry has to Offer

The Scoop is put together by Anna Sheetz, Minister of Equipping Ministry. In this issue, you will find all the information you'll need. In PDF form, all links are live so simply click and away you go!

A Word from Anna, Director of Equipping Ministry:

A word drilled into me through both my Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry and my Masters of Divinity is that *parents are the main role models of their children's faith*. I love that parents trust me, Layne, and Judy to develop their children and youth's faith, but the reality is- our emphasis should, technically, be more on developing parents to be the faith formation leaders of their children. Regardless of how many hours a child, a youth spends in church- their faith will always turn out resembling their parents faith, more than their church staff role models.

This is not to push the pressure from me in my role to parents- merely to share some interesting information and a focus of my work- thus, the motto of my work at First Pres: **To advocate for the youth and to partner with parents.**

In light of the COVID-19 threat, Equipping Ministry made the decision to cancel all in-person programs over this summer. But we also sense this is a great opportunity for parents to step into that role of Faith Formation leaders of their families! I know that this is a scary thing because *who knows where to start AND another thing because who has the time.*

I have never seen a curriculum like StoryMakers NYC (<https://www.storymakersnyc.com>) This combines a lot of easy ways for families to develop their children's faith, learn how to talk about faith together, and honestly- have fun with faith together. Each session in the Zine (for kids) has a great blend of imagination, coloring, fidgeting, play-acting, and great questions (such as, "Can you make your mom laugh by telling clever jokes or making silly faces? How can you help a grown-up relax or play?")

Each session in the guide (for parents) has an interesting fact, field notes, activities, and simple "Ask Your Storymakers". For example, "Were you surprised that God rested? Next time you have to rest, how can you use that rest to think about what God is like?"

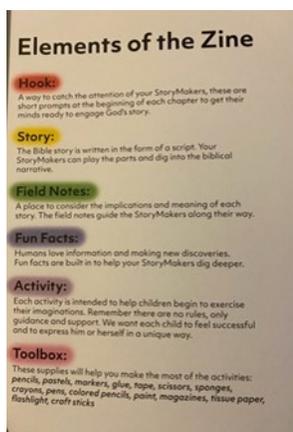
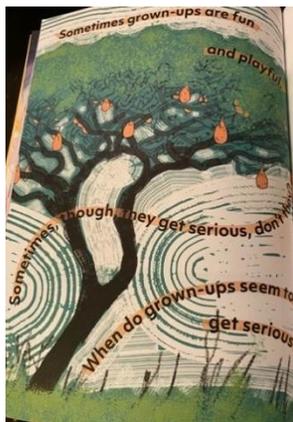
Overall, I am very excited about the potential for families, the flourishing of faith at home, and the pride of children as they become the story tellers of their own faith. This program truly has the ability to do all of this without heavy burdens for parents- but simply allows families to enjoy their faith together.

This is one of those decisions, mentioned above that families need to OPT-IN too. Equipping Ministry is prepared and excited to purchase this curriculum per each family who is willing to use it. Because it is all inclusive, it is also a tad expensive. It is only a prudent for Equipping Ministry, as stewards of the church budget, to purchase this for those willing to use it to its full potential.

The curriculum states that the aged sweet spot is for children and youth from 6-18 years of age. Oliver, who is 2, saw the curriculum and "OHH...AHHH.. MOMMY THIS IS AMAZING!" due to the vibrancy of pictures, although he will not get it. But Oliver, who is too young for StoryMakers, is a single kiddo and will not miss out on what his older siblings (that don't exist) will have. All this to say is that if a Family's 2-4 year olds *have* older siblings and they *will* miss out, please tell me and I will order an extra.... sanity is important.

So, to Opt-In, simply RESPOND to this if you've received it in your email OR Email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiwacity.org. I will need to know how many Zines you will need (or how many children/youth will need their own individual book).

Families will have the opportunity to go at their own speed. The Equipping team will have sporadic "Show and Tell" Zoom meetings throughout the Summer, where we all can connect over the stories, activities and questions.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Wired WORD™

The Wired Word will continue over the Summer. Join us each Sunday, June 7– August 30 from 9:30-10:25 a.m.

Please email Judy.Whitford@firstpresiovacity.org if you would be interested in attending.

Interested in a summer Bible Study on 1 Corinthians with Pastor Sam, beginning July 1?

Sam is looking at created a Bible study that will allow for folks to participate on three-level, granted that in-person gatherings are still not recommended:

By [mail](#), receiving weekly Sam's thoughts for your own reflection. You could then write or call your questions to him (letter making this offer will go out to the 40 parishioners not connected to email).

By [email and online](#), you would receive weekly an email with material for your reflection, with an option to share your thoughts briefly with other participants.

Some folks might wish to participate in a [periodic zoom discussion](#). This would not be weekly as Zoom is too uneven for some folks to participate and every effort will be made to not leave folks out, yet a few times during the course of the study I would hope for us to "catch up with each other face to face."

If you have an interest, please contact Pastor Sam at sam.massey@firstpresiovacity.org or text or call him on his cell 319-400-9824.

Small Group Ministry

The Equipping Ministry are beginning a small group ministry! The first hope is that each small group would meet virtually on Zoom once a week. This would be a time for community, conversation, and prayer. What each small group will need is:

One or two small group leader (s): This leader would be sent an email each week with guiding questions on faith, reflections on the sermon, by church leadership, ending in a time of sharing highs and lows. They would simply need to lead the conversation.

5-9 Participants: This is the best for dialogue, conversation, and community.

To show that you are interested in participating, simply click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNWDKQV> or email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiovacity.org.

Feel Free to reach out to Equipping Staff at any point:

Anna Sheetz; Anna.Sheetz@firstpresiovacity.org

Layne Sheetz; Layne.Sheetz@firstpresiovacity.org

Judy Whitford; Judy.Whitford@firstpresiovacity.org

Pastor Sam Massey; Sam.Massey@firstpresiovacity.org

YOUTH GROUP AT HOME

We're Breaking Traditions and having Youth Group, at Home, During the Summer:

Every other Thursday during the Summer, we'll have both 4-6th grade youth group and 7-12th grade youth group. Here are the days:

Wednesday, **June 10**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **June 24**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **July 1**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **July 15**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **July 29**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **August 5**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, **August 19**

4th-6th grade from 5-6 p.m.

7th-12th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Both Youth Groups are recurring meetings on Zoom.com. Use these links and Zoom addresses each of the dates to the left.

Topic: 4th-6th Grade Youth Group

Time: Jun 10, 2020 – August 19, 2020

05:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97403186884?pwd=Y2hldFVuY3RDUzRaNC9jNjBUcnJ1UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 0318 6884

Password: 885275

Topic: 7th-12th Grade Youth Group

Time: Jun 10, 2020- August 19, 2020

06:00- 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97838107950?pwd=dm5zT0d3TzFOWDRDRIRUbnhhcUxldz09>

Meeting ID: 978 3810 7950

Password: 523797

Youth Group Information for School Year 2020-2021

Beginning, Thursday, September 17, the **4th-6th Grade Youth Group** will meet weekly from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Beginning, Thursday, August 27, the **7th-12th Grade Youth Group** will meet weekly from 4:30-6 p.m.

Both Youth Groups will be provided a snack each week.



How Equipping Ministry is Communicating:

Equipping Ministry is determined to find the communication channels that 'fit' with each person. There are ways are communicating that some people miss and others that we don't even know that might be easier for you and your families to get your information! Here are the ways were are relaying information:

First Presbyterian Newsletter- The newsletter, put together by all of FPC's staff and volunteers, is produced by the 15th of each month. The office staff and volunteers work hard to mail a physical copy to you each month. You can also get a virtual copy by simply asking Tammy Schroeder at Tammy.Schroeder@firstpreslowacity.org. OR you can simply find the newsletters on the website here: <https://firstpreslowacity.org/newsletters/>

FPC Daily: This is a weekday email that staff produce- with a simply devotion and some information depending on the day. *Equipping Ministry's updates always come on Wednesdays.*

Equipping Ministry Update via Mailchimp: This is an email you should be receiving each month but with the COVID pandemic, it has become a weekly Equipping update. The benefit is the weekly Mailchimp provides full links to any and all online programs are hosting. Please be sure that these are not going to your spam- all FPC families should be getting these. Here is the complete list of these: <https://us18.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=68540c227730ad7f7c1d7be103&id=445864384b>

FPC Facebook: You'll get the most information and the least information overload here, <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchIowaCity/> The staff works hard to not overload this page and so you'll find daily links- once again, *Wednesdays you'll find the Mailchimp link and any information you'll need for Equipping Ministry.*

FPC Instagram: This is Equipping Ministry focused with simple tidbits of programing, interesting activities, and more information. Follow it at https://www.instagram.com/fpc_iowacity/

FPC Youtube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqPZYz5FwSOCKyowjKxR2-w?view_as=subscriber or simply search www.youtube.com and type in "First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City"



There's Risk to This:

We can put all the information out into the universe as we can, using as many different channels as we can. BUT it does staff and church members no good if it is a complete information overload or honestly, it's just too much and you're not actively pursuing the information. I don't blame you.

If I were you, I would prioritize the Newsletter and the FPC Facebook- simple, come and find information.

If none of these are working and you *want* to participate but you're trying your hardest and still missing communication- please email Anna at Anna.Sheetz@firstpreslowacity.org and work with me to figure it out. Let's spend this summer working on our communication and information give and take so we have it solid next Fall!



Equipping Ministry Condemns Racism.

The Jeremiah Justice Initiative



Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.

-Jeremiah 22:3

Justice is something that every generation has to strive for.

-John M. Perkins

The Jeremiah Justice Initiative is a group of people who seek to engage justice as we are called to in the Bible. John M. Perkins is a civil rights activist who works to fill the holes of hatred with love. His words ring in our ears. We can never be done striving for justice. With each passing day the news continues to affirm what we have been studying and exploring- we are a country that is built on the backs of people of color for the sake of white people. It is not a new idea- quite the opposite actually. The United States have been systemically racist since we were a British colony all of those years ago.

What response is appropriate? What response is Biblical? When Jesus flipped the tables in the Temple, was it not in protest? Jesus spoke of loving the poor and the oppressed while actively petitioning against those who were in power who misunderstood the Word of God so profoundly. Martin Luther King Jr took to the streets and preached that love would be the only thing that can drive out hate. He was killed for it.

Who are we today? Who are we called to become? We believe that the Bible calls us, as Christians, to not only protect the oppressed but help *deliver them* from the hand of their oppressor- even if the oppressor is us. Jeremiah 22:3 is active not passive in its advocacy for those who are oppressed. We are not called to save but to *ally* in activities and functions that support the ending of oppression and injustice.

It is time for this generation, the people of these barely united States of America to strive for justice. We condemn racism. We condemn the ease at which a black life could be taken- the shedding of innocent blood. We believe that Black Lives Matter. We believe that, as Christians, it is our duty to choose people over profit and to choose love in the face of hate. John M. Perkins said it best:

"Love is the final fight."

If you'd like to join the conversation please reach out to Layne Sheetz at layne.sheetz@firstpresbiowacity.org

A Prayer from Anna Sheetz

Pray with me....

When a black man can be handcuffed & on the ground,
Lord, we say, Oscar Grant's
black life matters.

When a black man walks home from the store,
Lord, we say, Trayvon Martin's
black life matters.

When a black boy cannot play in the park,
Lord, we say, Tamir Rice's
black life matters.

When a black man cannot jog,
Lord, we say, Ahmaud Arbery's
black life matters.

When a black woman cannot sleep in her own bed,
Lord, we say, Breonna Taylor's
black life matters.

When a black man cannot get out of his car,
Lord, we say, Terence Crutcher's
black life matters.

When a black man has a brake light out,
Lord, we say, Walter Scott's
black life matters.

When a black woman cannot change lanes,
Lord, we say Sandra Bland's
black life matters.

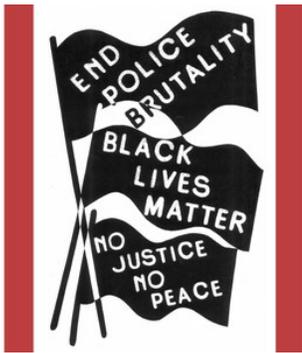
When a black man does not have a front license plate,
Lord, we say Samuel Dubose's
black life matters.

When a black man drives with his family,
Lord, we say, Philando Castile
black life matters.

When a black man cannot sell cigarettes,
Lord, we say, Eric Garner's
black life matters.

When a black man is kneeled in the neck,
Lord, we say, George Floyd's
black life matters.

Amen.



Statement of Justice from an FPC Youth:

The current situation in the US is not something that will pass. Because it shouldn't. Black people have been oppressed since before slavery and after the abolition of it in 1865 - in the US. Back in history, when Europeans were colonizing the world they used a tactic where they believed that they were genetically superior and better than the Africans and that they were helping them by colonizing and torturing them. Previously, they used that same ideology so when they packed the Africans in ships like animals and tortured them and used them, they could sleep and night and wouldn't feel bad about it because, in their minds, they were helping them.

I believe that now, even with the genetic evidence stating that we - meaning caucasians and people of color - are 99.9% similar to everyone. Scientists have found that the person sitting next to you on the train, next to you in the protest, giving you your morning coffee, is 99.9% similar to you. And yet, Black people are still beaten in the streets, killed without reason, and not given a fair trial all because of what? The white people behind the counter, behind the computer, behind the gun. Sure, you can say that the police officer that murdered George Floyd was doing self-defense, and it's only his mind that's messed up but, people are killed every day because of police officers and normal people just like him.

Ahmad Aubrey was killed while on a jog by being ambushed by white people. Trayvon Martin, a seventeen year old, was killed while carrying skittles. I can walk down the street with a hoodie over my head and skittles in my pocket without fear of being killed. A white man and a black man can be in the same bar, on opposite sides, and both break their arm. The white man would get medical attention first, without question. That's what's wrong with it. It's not just the system is failing these people. It's everyone.

The police officers, the government officials, the medical Professionals, the waitresses and waiters, the person reading this right now. Not only is the system designed for white men, because of the people who designed it, it's designed against black men and women. It's also the thought process in people mind. If you saw a white man in a hoodie walking towards you compared to a black man in a hoodie, which one would you be scared of? Or walk a little faster because of?

We need to change the perception of people of color in the United States. Because even though the facade of the great US is there and the American dream, I'm still ashamed to be an American. Because I know that my privilege and my thought process was planted in me by the system. Planted in everyone. That's why America was never great, and will never be again, until we equalize, truly equalize everything.

- Anonymous, 16, girl

"It has been going on for decades"

"In the last 10 years, racism has really reared its ugly head"

"It is not about skin color- its just that poor neighborhoods have a violence problem"

Phrases like the ones above have been circulating the internet or have been spoken by police. They are all indicators of a deeper racism than what they point to. Racism in our country has haunted us like a ghost since the North American continent was stolen from indigenous people by European colonizers.

From colonization and the targeted take over, assimilation, and genocide of indigenous peoples to the slave trade, the property that we call "our own" and say that we have "the right" to defend is built on the backs of people of color. Our interstates and roads, inspired by native populations infrastructure. Our buildings, our commerce, our housing market, built on the backs of unpaid labor. Our

segregated communities, built on the back of policy put in place to refuse housing in white communities for people of color. Our right to defend our property, our right to bear arms, only for those who fit the description of a registered voter in 1790.

How do we fix what has been so badly broken? We have to admit that we have systematically built system upon system in our country and designed them exclusively for White Male Landowners only to see them tragically fall into the hands of females and people of color momentarily before the system course corrects.

These are big picture issues. George Floyd was not killed because he may have been unfortunate enough to be in possession of a fake \$20 bill. He was murdered because he was black. Every day we avoid these hard conversations, every time that I do, I am complicit. I hope the heart of America, allegedly seeking to match the heart of Jesus, is awoken to the defibrillator being hooked up to its chest. It is up to us to

make the change in small ways first. Plants are watered at the roots, not the leaves. I need to be able to love my neighbors as myself and share the heart of Jesus with them. I need to be able to put the justice of others above the safety and wellbeing of myself. I need to be willing to give what I have to those who have not had a fair chance at having it.

Until our actions reflect what the gospels teach us, what have we even been doing in church?

"Does forgiveness not require restitution first?"

Does the cross you say you cling to does not scream that justice comes before reconciliation?

How can we talk about unity if you not ready to admit you wrong?
Is she not worth justice? "

-Propaganda, 20 Years

Reflection by Layne Sheetz, Assistant to Minister of Equipping Ministry



The best part of camp is connecting with friends and counselors.
Join us for Camp Connect!

[Sign Up for Camp Connect](#)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlp7mpjwNgLDalDulY_mZfEIQyeOUoCVO7YyclxTRTSpzIsA/viewform

At camp, we have fun doing things like kayaking, creek stomping, and launching rockets. However, one of the most valuable parts of camp is the connection with others.

At camp, kids meet others who may not live in their town, go to their school, or attend their church, but who still share their beliefs and values. They can talk about faith, joys, and struggles, knowing that camp is a safe space to be themselves.

And they have young adult counselors who are with them every step of the way in worship, study, and conversation.

We are heartbroken that we will not be able to have campers on-site this summer, but we still want to share Camp Connect with them. **We are offering this program FREE OF CHARGE to any child or youth who wants to participate.** If you have friends who have never been to Camp Wyoming, feel free to invite them to Camp Connect.

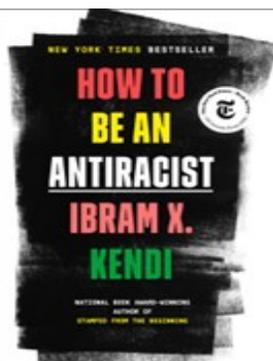
Camp Connect is two (2) Zoom events on Monday, June 15th and Monday, June 22nd at 1pm. Kids who register will be given a Zoom link to join us at those times. The calls will last 60-90 minutes.

We will sing some camp songs and play games together as a group. Campers will then be split into small groups, along with some of our amazing camp counselors, to have a devotion and group check-in.

If you've never been to camp, group check-in happens at the end of every day. It is a time for kids to express worries, struggles, and joys. It is one of the most important parts of a camper's day, and we want to check-in with our campers and ask, "How are you doing?"

It is important that each camper feel comfortable participating and sharing, which is why we are asking each child to be on their own device during the call (no sharing with siblings). If you are unable to meet this requirement, please email us at office@campwyoming.net.

To register for Camp Connect, simply click the button below. **Please register no later than Thursday, June 11th.** We will email you a few days before the first event with a Zoom link. If you are registering multiple children, please fill out a separate form for each child. Again, Camp Connect is open to anyone. Invite friends, neighbors, cousins, and classmates to join the call as well. Feel free to share the registration link with any school-age child.



The Presbyterian Peace Council is starting a 10 Week Book Study on Ibram X. Kendi's book How To Be an Antiracist. Find the information here:

A book club alone will not uproot white supremacy. But we also take seriously our responsibility to do the work together to learn, reflect, and act to uproot white supremacy in ourselves and in our communities. The work of antiracism is the work of peacemaking and nonviolence.

REGISTER HERE:

https://bit.ly/ppf_antiracist_bookclub



About the book:

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism - and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

ALL ARE WELCOME. This virtual Book Club will begin in August, after the many events we have for Peace Camp (concurrent with the PCUSA's virtual General Assembly)



Summer Zoom Meeting Address Book



<p>Wired Word Every Sunday; June 1, 2020- August 30, 2020; 9:30 -10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/93862632856? pwd=MWdMV09CTnVGRjBTa0tSWlQlNHZ2UT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 938 6263 2856 Password: 541458</p>	<p>4th-6th Grade Youth Group Every other Wednesday, Jun 10, 2020 – August 19, 2020; 05:00 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/97403186884? pwd=Y2hldFVuY3RDUzRaNC9jNjBUcnJlUT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 974 0318 6884 Password: 885275</p>
<p>Jeremiah Justice Initiative Every Sunday Night; June 1, 2020 – June 28, 2020; 06:00- 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/94101087637? pwd=akFHNTFXTmtyelhObjZyanNlVXpVZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 941 0108 7637 Password: 078215</p>	<p>7th-12th Grade Youth Group Every other Wednesday, Jun 10, 2020- August 19, 2020; 06:00- 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/97838107950? pwd=dm5zT0d3TzF0WDRDRIRUbnhhcUxldz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 978 3810 7950 Password: 523797</p>



Youth Group is changing days for the 2020-2021 year.

We have THIS going on:

THURSDAY is the new day for both Youth Groups

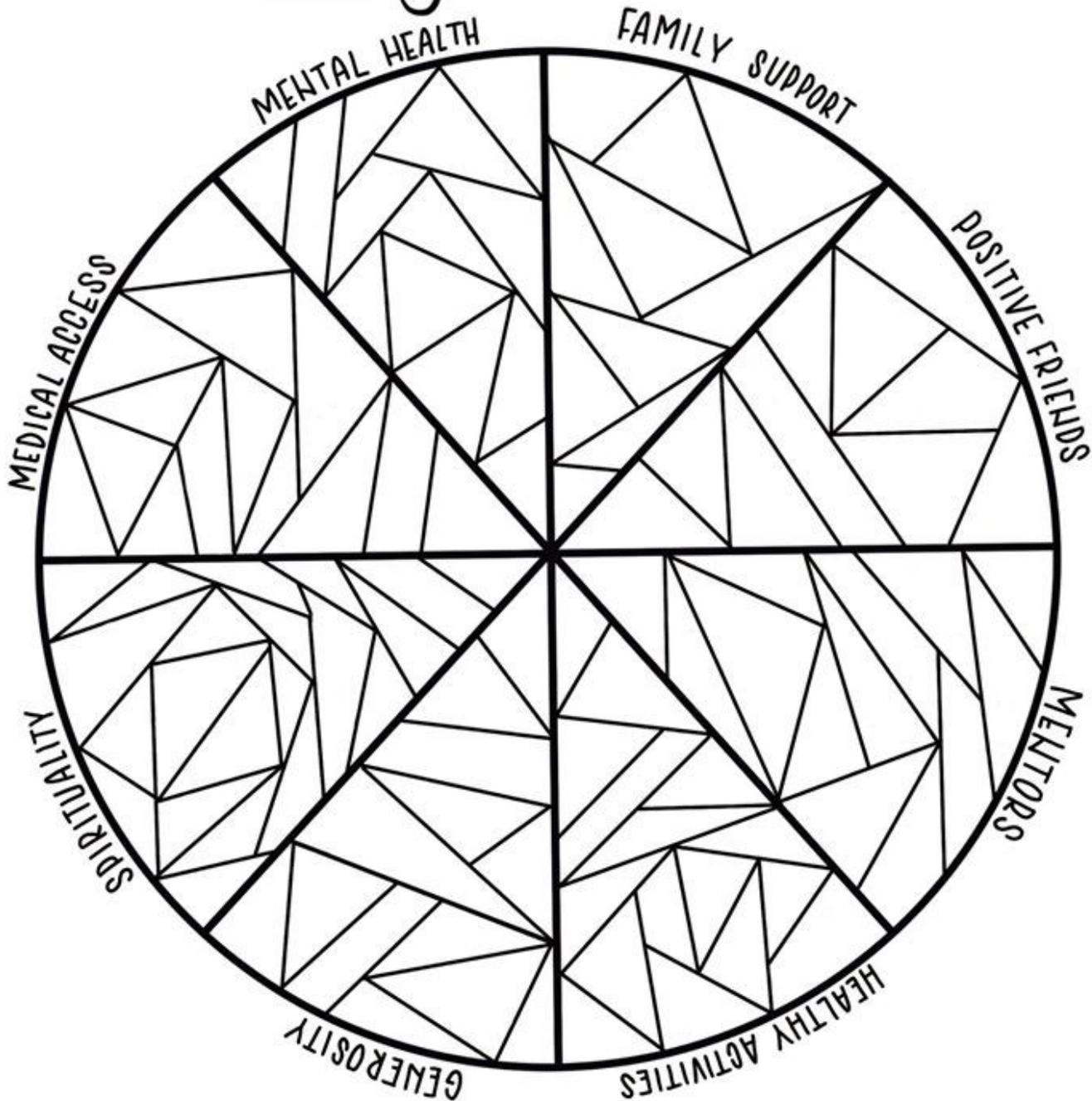
4th-6th grade youth group will meet weekly
with a snack from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

7th-12th grade Youth Group will meet weekly
with a snack from 4:30-6 p.m.

Summer Time Check in

Use this coloring sheet and feel free to email any staff member if you find yourself lacking on one of these strengths.

strength check in



DIRECTIONS: USING THE WORD BANK & EVERYONE'S CREATIVITY, HAVE EACH PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY WRITE DOWN ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN PRACTICE STRENGTH. HAVE EACH PERSON GRAB A MARKER & COLOR IN THE ACTIVITIES THEY HAVE DONE RECENTLY.