Greetings New Youth Families,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to welcome you and your children to Youth Group. For those of you who I haven’t had the chance to meet yet my name is Jeff Cunningham. I am fairly new to Manhattan and to the church having moved here in June of 2019 and taken the position of Youth Director in September 2020. My wife Amy is a physician with Stonecreek Family Physicians and we have two boys both of whom will be in youth group this year; Elijah will be a sophomore and Spenser will be a 6th grader. Amy and I are both graduates of KU and huge Jayhawk fans (please don’t hold that against me too much). I have a Master’s Degree in Youth Ministry from Southwestern College, and have been involved in youth ministry for over 20 years with most of those as a youth director.

As a youth director my goal is best served up in Ephesians 3:7. In the Message translation it goes like this: “This is my life’s work: helping people understand and respond to this Message” referring to the Gospel. This translates into a vision for youth ministry of helping the youth answer the question that Jesus asked Peter in Matthew 16:15 “Who do you say I am?” By helping the youth get to know Jesus on a personal level and through that relationship discover who they are created to be. In Ephesians 1:11 says “It is through Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. (MSG). I want all of the youth to know who they are in Christ and have a faith that is fully integrated into every part of their lives when they graduate from this ministry. Together we will work towards that goal through worship, study, mission, and fellowship. I hope to get to know your youth’s gifts and dreams and to walk alongside them as they move towards achieving those goals.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for adult participation in youth activities. These include but are not limited to;

* Providing Meals
* Confirmation Sponsors
* Trip Chaperones
* Sunday Night Volunteers
* Parent Advisory Committee
* and more

I am truly excited to be on this journey with you. Together we can make the youth program something special for our young people and help them grow into the people that God created them to be.

If you have any questions please reach out to me by email at [youth@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:youth@fumcmanhattan.com) or by call or text at 620.714.0543.

Jeff