

#youngadultreunions

Holidays, Any day, Community Connection

A hashtag is more than a symbol. It's an indication of something connective, something intriguing. Whether the young adults you are in ministry with have just graduated or have been away from home for years, keep them connected during holidays and vacation times by offering trendy or "trending" activities. You may not mind having the same brunch with the same bunch every Christmas Eve day, but why not offer something new that plays off Instagram daily hashtags?

Instagram, a popular app for smartphones, tablets and Web users, invites participants to "gather" digitally through common experiences, opinions, and ideas, which are titled with the hashtag symbol (#). For example: #ukirk or #pywa.

For a fun lesson on the overuse of hashtags, watch this www.nbc.com/the-tonight-show/segments/1101.

Read on for reunion ideas! You can do all of these ideas in one event or choose one or two ideas over the course of the break.

#ManIt'sBeenGreat(ornotsogreat)Monday—Meet for a meal/coffee/ice cream and share celebrations or hardships that have been happening in the lives of the young adults.

#TransformationTuesday—Meet with young adults in the youth room or their former meeting space. Go on a photo scavenger hunt of the church, using clues that revolve around spaces that have changed in the past few years. Gather back together and ask the young adults to share ways the church, their home community, and they have changed. Look at a picture of your current youth group and ask each young adult to pray for a youth in the midst of their own transformation. Consider asking the young adults to write a letter to the current youth group explaining how their faith community played an important role in who they are today.

#WorshipfulWednesday—Gather for a group worship experience. You could pray together, visit a labyrinth, have a healing and wholeness service (be sure to have plenty of candles), visit a sacred site or go on a hike together.

#ThrowbackThursday—Create a slideshow of photos from the young adults’ time in youth group. Reminisce after watching it together. Provide hard copies of photos from when they were in youth group. Ask the young adults to choose a photo of a youth leader, Sunday school teacher, church mentor, or church friend who didn’t make it home for the reunion. Have them write a thank-you note on the back of the photo and mail it to the person.

#FlashbackFriday—Play a beloved game from the young adults’ time in youth group. Sardines? Capture the Flag? Be sure to invite the young adults back to help lead these games with your current youth, allowing them to develop their skills as church leaders.

#ServiceSaturday—Do a service project together in your local community or to send to a mission group.

#SelfieSunday—Be sure to take a picture of this group and their time together. Post it on the church website. Consider making postcards out of this photo to send to the young adults throughout the year.

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