



CHURCHES in harmony

Transforming the lives of young adults across greater Madison, inviting them into authentic, in-person community, centered around Christ

Newsletter – February 9, 2025

The Plan, Part 2: Young Adult Community

Pastor Michael Erdman

Our second objective for 2025 is to Grow Young Adult Community. (You can read about all of our objectives on the Churches in Harmony handout, available at all our churches.)

It is hard to describe just how fast the world has changed in the last few decades. First the internet, then social media, then smart phones have each radically and permanently changed the way society works. It has rapidly destroyed many social norms and replaced them with untested innovations instead. It turns out, not all of those norms should have been destroyed, and not all of those innovations are actually better.

One casualty of the modern era is people's social lives. Social media might appear similar to a social life. You can "interact" with people. But it is not the same thing as having a real, in-person, social life. If that wasn't obvious before, the COVID lockdowns made it crystal clear. No one knows this better than the kids who were in high school or college during the pandemic: No friends, no social life, just zoom school and social media all day, every day.

Gen Z understands this problem, but they are struggling to find a good solution. Many of the "normal" ways people used to meet, hang out, and build relationships are now gone, replaced by technology.

We have an opportunity to help them. We can build a real, in-person community here in the Churches in Harmony for young adults. We can invite them to join us not just for worship services or Bible studies, but for all sorts of community events and activities.

This is one place where our relatively small size can actually work to our advantage. These young adults are looking for community. They could be lost in a huge church, but in a smaller community, people truly get to know one another, like a family. It is this family in Christ that we can offer to Generation Z, which is far more attractive today than you might think.

Churches in Harmony Potluck, Feb 16 @12:15pm at St Paul

Pastor Michael Erdman

The partnership will be hosting another potluck on February 16th at 12:15pm at St Paul. Look for a signup sheet at your church. We are looking for a good mix of dishes, sides, drinks, and desserts, so make sure to see what other people have signed up for at your congregation. (Of course, this will be right after Valentine's Day, so bonus points if your dish can fit the theme!)

Evening Bible Study, Tuesdays @6:30pm at Immanuel

Pastor Michael Erdman

As we begin pursuing our vision of reaching young adults here in Madison, we need to start holding events that fit into their schedule. A first step in that direction is this Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm at Immanuel. (This Bible Study will not meet on weeks with a Game Night.) You do not need to be a young adult to attend; all are welcome. That said, if you are a young adult, we would love for you to join us and meet the rest of the group!

Harmony Game Night, next on Mar 4 @5:30pm at Monona

Pastor Michael Erdman

The next game night will be hosted by Monona. They are always on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30pm with a meal. After the food, we will play a variety of games. We encourage you to bring your own favorite board/card games to share with the group. If you can't make it for the meal, you can still join us for the games. The games usually start around 6:30pm.