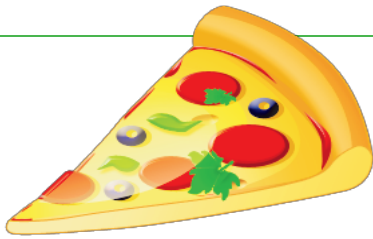


# Parent & Youth *focus*

FINDING WAYS TO CONNECT PARENTS AND YOUTH  
TOGETHER | LOOKING AT YOUTH CULTURE TODAY



**Pizza Party!**  
**Wed, Dec. 2**  
**6:30 pm**

**The Refuge**  
**Bring your friends!**

## Youth Group News

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Tim. 4:12*

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so the song goes! As we head into the busy holiday season, the youth group will be celebrating their success at "super-sizing" with a pizza party! They doubled their regular attendance from the last month by inviting their friends.

This month we will do some Advent and Christmas-related Bible studies, and rehearse for

the Nativity Play that is coming up on December 19th.

The youth group is going to head to Columbia on Saturday, December 11 for a fun day of Christmas shopping and fellowship! Youth need to bring money for their own lunch at the food court hang out! We have several parent chaperones, but more are always welcome.

## Christmas Shopping in Columbia!

**Join us Saturday, Dec. 11**  
**Meet at church at 9 am.**

**Shopping in pairs at the  
Columbia Mall, with lunch  
together in the Food Court.**

**We will be back at church at 3  
pm.**



## *Children & Youth Nativity Play*

Performed at the Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 19th, 6 pm.  
Reception to follow

Dress rehearsal Wednesday, December 15th, 6:30 pm

# Parents Corner

## Advent Adventure

In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it is easy to lose our focus, and can be hard to find time to connect as a family. This year, the HSBC Youth & Family Ministry is offering a way for your family to make this season a special time to focus on Christ and prepare our hearts, not just our homes, for Christmas.



On the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, Advent devotional booklets were passed out to the families at church. If you did not receive one, extras are available in the foyer or from Cheryl Flaim.

These booklets provide a quick and simple way for your family to take a few minutes out of each day to come together, read a passage of Scripture, and have a discussion and time of prayer. There are several fun activities for your family to do, and this can become a special and meaningful tradition for both you and your children.

Children have also received Advent sticker calendars, which are a fun way to countdown to Christmas.

Here are some additional ideas for things your family can do this Advent to keep Christ at the center of your thoughts and activities!

- Set up a nativity in a focal point in your home. Talk together about the different figures and what their part was in the Christmas story.
- Bake cookies for your neighbors! Deliver them together as a family, and ask if you can pray for them.
- Visit people in a nursing home. The holidays can be a lonely time, and your visit will brighten their day!
- Watch a favorite Christmas movie together.
- Drive around to look at Christmas lights.
- Make a Jesse Tree and the special ornaments to use on it - information about the Jess Tree can be found here: <http://www.jesse-trees.com/index.html>
- Shop for a child off of the Angel Tree at Walmart.
- For youth, [followingthestar.org](http://followingthestar.org) offers a daily online Advent devotion. During the rest of the year, there are daily devotionals for youth as well!
- Give a little Christmas gift to your pizza or Chinese food delivery person—a small bag with some candy or a small present, and the Christmas story in it can be very meaningful, and give you an opportunity to share the gospel!
- Take the time to come to HSBC's Christmas activities. From the women's cookie swap, to the Sunday evening Christmas programs, to the candle-light Christmas Eve service, there are many opportunities to celebrate and worship together with your family and your church family!

I hope this season of Advent is a time of special meaning for your family, as you focus on preparing your heart for Christmas. Start a new tradition and have an Advent Adventure together with your family!

May your Christmas be blessed and a time of joy!

### YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY CALENDAR

**December 2**—Youth Group Pizza Party. The Refuge, 6:30 pm.

**December 11**—Youth Group Christmas Shopping in Columbia. Leave HSBC at 9 am, return at 3 pm.

**December 15**—Dress rehearsal for Nativity Pageant. 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

**December 19** - Christmas program. 6 pm.



