



Church Team Spotlight - Our Involvement with Lighthouse

(article written by Ray Shupe, Church Member and President of Lighthouse)

Question: What represents 5 churches with 4 ministers, and 3 faiths, in 2 communities, and 1 school district?

Answer: Port Washington Saukville Ecumenical Youth Ministry d/b/a (doing business as) Lighthouse Youth Ministry!

A little over 3 years ago in late Winter 2018, Jeff Suddendorf met with 3 other area pastors for coffee and started bouncing around the idea of a multi-faith, multi church youth group... an ecumenical youth ministry so faiths could work together. None of the churches had enough kids, money, and/or volunteers. So why not pool resources? Well, that is exactly what we did and today we operate as Lighthouse Youth Ministry. Providing a safe environment for youth from 5th grade to 12th grade.

I got involved with Lighthouse early in the start-up while serving as Moderator on the First Congregational Church Council. After Lighthouse incorporated and we received our 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status in mid-2018, I was elected to the position of President of the Lighthouse Board. I have proudly served in that position and, along with Savannah Anderson, we have represented First Congregational on the Lighthouse Board.

Lighthouse has experienced many changes from the time we were meeting to figure out how to do this and what needed to be done. In addition to developing By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, tax exempt status, and policies and procedures to protect the youth, we:

1. obtained a d/b/a name and developed a logo,
2. have a permanent "headquarters" at 505 W. Grand Ave (the Family Activity Center at Grand Avenue Methodist Church) procuring a 5-year lease for \$1.00/year rent,
3. have hired a Youth Director,
4. developed a webpage (lighthouseyouth.org) and a Facebook page,

(continued on next page)

OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY, cont.

5. had several successful fundraisers,
6. remodeled the "headquarters" to be more modern and appealing to the youth,
7. expanded to include kids from around Ozaukee County,
8. sponsored some kids to youth summer camps,
9. created separate middle school and high school groups,
10. had many fun outside activities (sledding/tubing, mini golf, movies at the theater, civic activities, and campfires),
11. have survived the Covid-19 pandemic through good connections with the kids.

When the schools stopped in person education, we stopped face to face meetings with the kids. We turned to Zoom and held weekly meetings that including cooking contests and training, trivia games, and whatever our Youth Director, Erica Brooks, could come up with. As a result, we are emerging from the last year with momentum and are now holding weekly CDC compliant youth meetings.

We thank First Congregational Church for the congregation's continued support of our important mission...supporting the youth of our community. If anyone would like to learn more about Lighthouse, including youth and adult opportunities, please feel free to contact Erica Brooks (Erica.brooks@lighthouseyouth.org or (931) 217-0487), visit our newly updated website (lighthouseyouth.org) or contact Savannah Anderson or me (shuper54@yahoo.com or (262) 416-8896).

Ray Shupe, President

Port Washington Saukville Ecumenical Youth Ministry d/b/a Lighthouse Youth Ministry

More Information About Lighthouse Youth Ministry Board:

- The Board consists of 2 members from each church, 10 total
- Of the 2 Board members who represent each church, one is a voting member (officer) and one is a non-voting member (advisory). Officers are elected from the pool of representatives. The offices include President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. Elections will occur this coming July.
- Lighthouse Board meets the first Monday of each month. Anyone can come to a meeting and listen in if they have interest.

Our current church representatives, Ray and Savannah, are both going off of the Board. We are in need of new representation from the church. If you are interested, please contact the Pastor Scott. Scott plans to continue meeting each month as part of the pastoral advisory group.



*see page
15 to learn
when the kids
meet each
week!