

THE YOUNG LIFE

Despite being another pandemic year in the rear view mirror, we are thankful that we are able to celebrate the goodness of God, and His faithfulness towards us in 2021. Like many of us, as we navigated last minute changes, announcements and details, we saw a God bind together a community of Young Adults who grabbed hold to the value and importance of belonging to a church community. While how the community met and worshipped ebbed and flowed with the requirements as they came - God has created a renewed passion for gathering in worship, community and His world.

A few highlights from this past year;

TYL PODCAST IN WINTER 2021

In 2021 we kicked off our Young Life Podcast as a solution for Young Adults to have a weekly digital touch point, hosted by a rotating team of people from our community. We were thankful to host over 15 guests and several more episodes as we talk everything from mental health, how to digest scripture, and were joined by our now District Superintendent, Jason Small, to walk us through how to be people to look to unify, and not divide the church. Young adults today are busy and active - balancing work, school, relationships, all the while are in the process of navigating the beginning of life's biggest decisions. For this reason - instead of insisting on a LIVE service time, we wanted to make the TYL Podcast available to be an hour away in their week - when they could. To date we celebrate over 1600 viewers and listeners across YouTube, Spotify & Apple Podcasts.

TYL UNDER THE TENT IN SUMMER 2021

Coming out of the restrictions of spring 2021, Pastor Jay erected the tents that would become home to our Sunday morning services for the summer, and so the Young Life began to regather and move outdoors. This summer we began to worship together again in the back field and walked through the spiritual practice of Sabbath, we cease, we rest, we worship, we celebrate. This season of life for many has been incredibly challenging, and I believe that that undoing set the ground for some incredible moments and fresh expression of worship together. Pastor Jay had often joked that these tents had become our 'tent of meeting' just like Moses had, and I would share that sentiment, in that like in Moses' 'tent of meeting' this summer marked some powerful nights where we met with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

THE RETURN OF TYL COLLECTED FALL 2021

We were excited to finally return to our regular format this past fall. While there were still many things that were modified, it began to fall back to normal. While over the past 2 years our group had bounced around rooms, formats and strategies, a more natural rhythm began to take shape as we were able to regather at our home in the Summit. We have seen a new wave of growth and life, with people coming out of this past season in need of somewhere to belong, and Monday nights have been able to be that place.

As we have come through our own challenges with Covid as a church family, we have come back just as strong as a ministry that hopes to help make The Young Life a home for everyone as they navigate faith, life and what God has in store for them.

We are thankful that in 2021 God continued to grow our community, and the lives of young adults here at Maplevue. The local church, and local church communities are God's plan 'A' for our formation and influence in our world, and over this last year, His faithfulness has only reinforced that over and over again. I would ask that you continue to pray over The Young Life and the young adults here at Maplevue. God is always up to something good!

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Burton
Director of The Young Life