



**Beaver-Butler Presbytery**  
Serving God...Serving You



## Congregations **Connected** - Youth Ministry

### *Bringing Jesus to Life by Reenacting His Death*

#### *Live Stations of the Cross*

Have you ever felt bullied or mocked? Youth groups from six Beaver-Butler congregations gathered at Ohio United Presbyterian Church in Hopewell for an interactive Easter experience. The program illustrated how Jesus dealt with some of the same things that youth have to cope with today and was designed to engage hearts and minds through the senses. Youth journeyed through scripture, made “real”, by partaking of food and drink during the last supper, praying in the “garden”, making wooden crosses, witnessing the “crucifixion” and entering the “tomb” with its pungent spices.




Pastor Nick Marlatt, of Ohio UP, reached out to Youth Leadership Connection Director, Diana Mermon Spencer for a stations of the cross program. Diana embraced the project recognizing it to be a unique opportunity to bring Jesus to youth



in a personally relevant and powerful way, “showing them that Jesus is as real today as he was 2,000 years ago”. A youth from one of the churches said, “I loved it. I learned that Jesus went through some of the things I go through like being bullied, feeling alone sometimes because my friends ignore me. I learned to talk to God like Jesus did when he felt that way.”



The program is available as a template for future events. Contact Diana to learn more!

**Stay Connected** with Beaver Butler Presbytery Youth:  calendar & announcements

**Give your share.**

**Stronger together. Beaver-Butler congregations.**

For more information about Per Capita  
call 724-452-7515 or visit [beaverbutler.org](http://beaverbutler.org)



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### *Leaders –Assistance for Your Group*

Diana Mermon Spencer, Youth Leadership Connection Director, works with Presbytery church youth leaders. Her motivation comes from her belief that, “Kids need someone to show them the way and help them see that their lives will be better and more fulfilled with Jesus in it.”

### **What does the BBP Youth Leadership Coordinator do?**

#### *Glow Event*

- **Provides training** to established leaders and to churches that are considering starting a group. Youth groups can be for any age kids, preschool to high school!
- **Temporarily assists churches with groups** without a youth leader
- **Fosters the growth of youth leaders** by building relationships with pastors and lay people as they engage in youth ministry throughout the presbytery
- **Encourages and provides coordination for youth and youth leaders to participate in conferences** such as Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- **Helps plan and organize youth group events** to foster a community for youth leaders and youth to connect with other groups
- **Comes to youth group as a guest youth group leader** to provide games and lessons, including special family fun night events, such as “Family Feud” and trivia nights
- **Coordinates Presbytery-wide events:** annual scavenger hunt held in various places in Allegheny, Butler and Beaver counties, prayer stations, Easter Stations of the Cross, glow parties, dances, talent shows, bands, Christian tailgate parties for local teams

**For Leaders**  Beaver Butler Presbytery: bulletin boards, youth activities, games, crafts. Contact Diana at [dianamermon@beaverbutler.org](mailto:dianamermon@beaverbutler.org) or 412-915-2097.

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