



### I HOPE...

- I hope we win this game.
- I hope she says yes when I ask her to the dance.
- I hope there's a 2 hour delay tomorrow.
- I hope I don't get caught.
- I hope I get accepted.
- I hope my grandma gets better.
- I hope I did ok on the algebra test.
- I hope my parents don't get divorced.
- I hope I don't get bullied today.
- I hope I get the part that I want.
- I hope my friends understand.

These statements of hope that we consistently hear from kids represent just some of their many hopes. They're not careless or silly thoughts made by young people who don't know any better. They are genuine hopes that reside deep in their heart. But when you hear them in person, it's easy to detect nervousness about the outcome. For all of their hope, they lack confidence that it will work out, so at the same time, they prepare themselves for disappointment.

When Paul wrote his first letter to young Timothy, his very first words were *"This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus, who gives us hope. I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith."* (1 Timothy 1:1-2)

This kind of hope is noticeably absent from teenagers' stories. But Paul reminds us over and over that God gives us hope in Christ. And it's a hope that brings with it a confident assurance of God's mercy, forgiveness, salvation, refuge, strength, and eternal life. It's a hope based on God's covenant with His creation. It's a future hope based on God's past performance in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And so with a sense of conviction, compassion, and urgency, we continue to remind kids of a hope that only God can give them--a hope that does not disappoint.

**Chris Thompson**  
Executive Director

Three times a week, downtown, we open the doors to the Cellar (our City Life, Downtown Pittsburgh location) as an after-school safe, drop-in space for teenagers at both City High Charter School and CAPA. The students we have met in the Cellar have a variety of opinions about God, Jesus and religion. To our knowledge, none of them have a relationship with Jesus.

At Youth for Christ (YFC), we have five essentials. One of them is **Loving Relationships**. YFC defines this as: *We consistently pursue lost kids & engage them in life-long relationships with Jesus*. Here's how that definition plays out in the Cellar.

Last year a group of freshman began coming to the Cellar regularly. They mostly kept to themselves, drawing and whispering off in the corner. Our attempts at connecting with them always felt forced and unsuccessful. This year, that same group of freshman come, but it's different. This year, they let us sit with them while they draw. They talk to us, laugh with us and play games with us. We've built a relationship. We don't know if this group will come to know Jesus in their time at the Cellar, but we know we need to do our part in loving them as He would. We believe that the relationship we've developed and progress we've seen in connecting with them is something to celebrate. We believe it's a stepping stone on their journey to Christ!



*The Cellar is located in the basement of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh on 6th Avenue. It operates under the ministry strategy called City Life. To learn more about the Cellar, click [here](#).*

## Upcoming Events



# CITY LIGHTS

We have some exciting news we can't wait to share with you! Please join us for dinner on **Monday, October 24th at 6 PM** at LeMont Restaurant in Pittsburgh. Make your reservation today by clicking [here](#). Seating is limited, and you won't want to miss hearing where God is leading this ministry and how you can be part of it!

Table sponsorships are available for this year's banquet. Please contact Pam Hart by emailing [pamhart@yfcmp.org](mailto:pamhart@yfcmp.org) or call [412-854-1110, x. 221](tel:412-854-1110) to reserve your table!

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## Give Life to More Kids' Stories with your Christmas (and every day) shopping!

Youth for Christ's mission is made possible by the generous gifts of our supporters. To donate online and join the story of Youth for Christ, click [here](#). Or, designate Metro Pittsburgh Youth for Christ through Giving Assistant.



**Giving Assistant** shoppers earn an average of 5% cash back, and donate all or a percentage of that cash back to organizations like us! Just sign up for free to start earning and giving. You'll also enjoy huge savings at 1800+ popular retailers like **Home Depot** and **Target**, as well as limited-time offers and coupons. It's never been easier to change kid's lives!

[Designate your cash back to Metro Pittsburgh Youth for Christ by clicking here.](#) Join for free using your email address and you will receive discount codes and coupons to save, shop, and make a difference in kids' lives!

## Our Special Thanks



Our special thanks goes to the Washington County Community Foundation for their generous grant that will help at-risk kids develop self-esteem, trust, and confidence.

Pictured from left to right are Armory Youth Center Director JR Gardner, Women of Philanthropy Giving Circle member Shirley Hardy, and YFC Development Director Pam Hart.

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