



Ohio Celebrates the Family Friendly Partners Network Experience

Congregational leaders from the **Ohio** Family Friendly Partners Network shared, at the end of Event 8, ways the FFPN helped their church and church families. They also shared events or activities their church had started because of their involvement as an Ohio Family Friendly Partners Network congregation. Below are the compiled results.

FFPN Impact on Network Churches

Ohio Churches indicated that the Family Friendly Partners Network helped their church...

- See the need to train parents to teach the Word to their children
- See the need to help heal and bless our families in many ways
- Become aware of how the family needs to be the faithshapers of the family or stepfamily and how the body of Christ (the Church) can support and educate them.
- By shaping us...that teaching children has to start in the home
- That a healthy marriage is a healthy home
- Place greater value on families
- Focus on activities that include all generations

"This program has been a blessing in a time when it is needed so much!"

"I always feel empowered and refreshed by coming to these events."

"Thank you for your time in guiding us through this opportunity to minister to families."

"What a blessing to be involved in FFPN and to realize the blessings of family."

Events and Activities of Ohio FFPN Churches

Ohio Family Friendly Partners Network churches were asked to share events or activities their churches are doing because of their involvement in FFPN. Visit the FFPN website at www.familyfriendlypn.com to find a full list of activities Ohio reported over the three year experience and contact information for each congregation if interested in learning more about these ideas.

Paradigm Shift

- Re-wrote our Mission Statement to be "Sharing the Risen Christ to All Generations!" (Hosanna- Columbia Station)
- Our congregation is developing a new vision that focuses on the church as a family outreach center. (Hosanna- Columbia Station)
- Route 67- Mile Marker Ministry (Faith)
- Had multiple sessions on Paradigm Shift in the congregation (Ascension)
- Paradigm Shift session: very important to help us see the importance of parents being the primary faith-shapers (Bethlehem)
- Family mission statement session (Bethlehem)
- Surveyed parents, grandparents, etc. to see what their top prayers are for their kids and then did a sermon series on these (Royal Redeemer)
- Family Mission Statement Workshop (St. Mark's)
- Our Family Vision Statement is now family as the focus "True Family" (Faith)
- Congregational Survey-reported results to congregation during service for three weeks
- Created a three-year plan for launching and continuing family ministry activities and events (St. Mark's)

Training Parents in Faith Formation

- Faith@Home for preschool families using Kirk Weaver's Family Time (Faith)
- Faith 5 from Faith Incubators: Share, read, talk, pray, bless with your family.

- The Blessing of the Confirmation Students to begin the year (Royal Redeemer)
- Gave 4th graders a Bible each year presented by their parents (Hosanna-Columbia Station)
- Never Too Late: Visionary Parenting Curriculum (Faith)
- Every week using Family Devotions to go along with the Sermon Series (Royal Redeemer)
- Resurrection Eggs: Families made one for themselves and one for each preschool family (Faith)
- ADVENTure: Making Advent a time of peace and waiting by helping and teaching parents to make time during Advent (Faith)
- Sent home an activity with 125 VBS children every day from the Kirk Weaver, Family Time materials (Hosanna- Columbia Station)
- Providing training sessions with parents of preschoolers on praying with their kids and having family devotions (Royal Redeemer)
- Bible Blessings for 3rd graders and their parents (Royal Redeemer)
- Bringing moms, grandmas, and aunts together with girls to celebrate being a "princess" of the king (Royal Redeemer)
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt, Bible devotions, and craft for members and community (Bethlehem)
- Presented Bibles to Preschool Children (Ascension)
- Introduced (Family Time) and materials to families of both VBS and Preschool (Ascension)
- Offering the "Never Too Late" series two different times (Royal Redeemer)
- Creative Confirmation: meet monthly, parents teach the Catechism (Faith)
- Teaching parents and grandparents how to bless their kids (Royal Redeemer)
- Family Time Activity Handouts during VBS (St. Mark's)
- 3 year old and 3rd graders Bible give away (St. Mark's)
- Family Time Bible study during Sunday School hour in summer (St. Mark's)
- Grief Share: Ministry for families who have been touched by death (St. Mark's)

Marriage Ministry

- Wedding Ceremony where the couple signed a Marriage Covenant, had a feet washing, and received a blessing from both fathers. (Hosanna-Columbia Station)
- Fireproof- Marriage Sunday School Class (Faith)
- Marriage Retreat and Planning Marriage 2011 (Faith)
- "I Do Again" marriage workshop and dinner (Bethlehem)
- Offered ongoing marriage enrichment classes (Royal Redeemer)
- Renewal of Vows: Celebrating Marriage (Faith)
- Date Nights to build marriage (St. Mark's)
- Divorce Care and DC4K was established and had its first fun (St. Mark's)
- We recognize anniversary celebrations once a month in church.

Parent Education

- Parenting with a Purpose: Once a month education for parents (Faith)
- Offering "Parenting is Heart Work" by Turansky (Royal Redeemer)
- Offering a Biblical parenting Bible Study for preschool parents (Hosanna - Columbia Station)
- Active Parenting class for parents of 5-12 year olds (St. Mark's)

Human Sexuality

- Having Ben and Jennifer Freudenburg come in to talk with parents about how to talk to their kids about sex (Royal Redeemer)
- Offering the Pam Stenzel "Sex Series" for parents and their confirmation kids (Royal Redeemers)
- Intro to Human Sexuality Material for parents of children (St. Mark's)