



AYM Ohio Highlight Magazine

December, 2025



Highlight Magazine

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The Story and Mission Behind AYM Ohio

AYM Ohio all started in 2019 when a friend of mine approached my sister and I after potluck lunch one Sabbath and asked if we'd be interested in starting an AYM chapter. We sat down and started discussing how that would look. He explained how AYM was a way for young people to use their talents and learn how to organize and plan retreats, and also a good platform to learn how to preach and teach. He had been part of a chapter previously, and was on fire to keep going with the work.

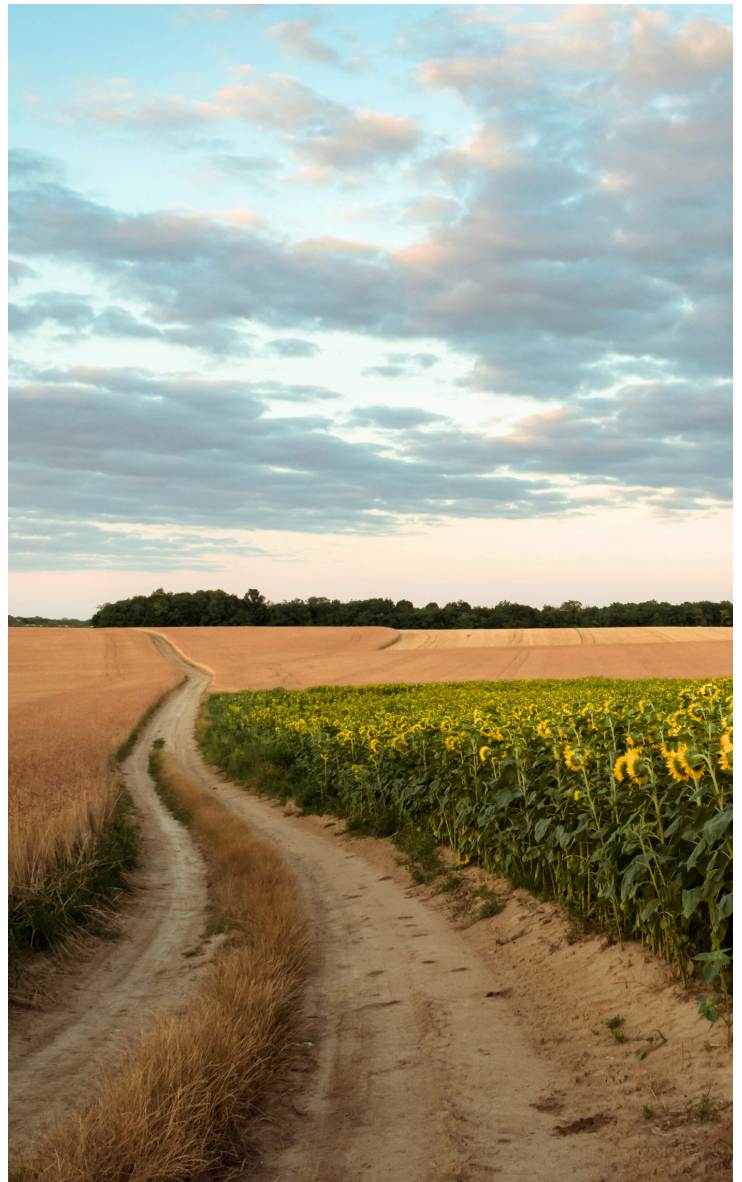
I was excited to see where this would go, but also a little nervous as I had never helped organize an event. We started working on finding team members, and everything just seemed to fall in place. After we had a team, we started with planning our first retreat. The whole process of organizing and planning a retreat with just young people was something I had never done before, but it was such a blessing to watch God answer our prayers one by one.

In June of 2020 we held our first retreat with the theme "Conquering your Giants," focusing on the idea that everyone has their own giants they have to conquer through Christ, in order to be victorious. It was such a blessing to watch young people rededicate their lives to Christ and get on fire to conquer the spiritual giants in their lives. The retreat was small, but powerful. We hold a retreat once a year, and, they are such a blessing! We not only have inspiring sermons, but also enjoy helping the community and doing fun interactive activities as a group.



Our chapter's mission is unique in that we are based in a large Amish community, and have several team members with Amish backgrounds. We try to make the retreat be a safe haven for any young person that is seeking, and also for those just leaving their Amish families for the truth, and are shunned as a result. Our purpose is to see young people give their lives to Christ and let Him use them to further spread His Word. I have made so many strong friendships through AYM, and it has also helped get me out my comfort zone, and go do something for Christ. AYM Ohio is a living testimony that God can work through the most unqualified people, if we only let Him.

By Mary Weaver



Mary Weaver is a 20-year-old passionate about serving others through missions and living out her faith. She loves digging into Bible studies and sharing her heart with others. When she's not on mission, you'll likely find her baking treats, tending to animals on the farm, reading, or enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

About our upcoming retreat:

ReAct†

Acts 26:16

AYM Ohio 2026

Dates: May 21-24, 2026

**Free registration*

Location:

West Salem Mission

14700 Rickel Rd.

West Salem, OH, 44287





ReAct

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in which I will appear unto thee."

Acts 26:16

In the first chapter of the book of Acts, you see the momentous beginning of a great movement, a revolution. A radical change from this dark world. It seems that this movement would have just begun at that time but look a little closer, and you will see that it carries the same thread found from the foundation of the world. It is taking an individual stand for the truth. Surrendering your whole life into the hands of your creator, the master mind behind the saving and transforming revolution to restore mankind. You see, before the disciples did great things, wonders to all creations, they were a group of inexperienced, unwanted, unqualified people, but they were praying earnestly for the Holy Spirit. They were communing with their God and surrendering themselves fully and individually. Then, when a flame of the Spirit ignited their souls, they reacted by rising and standing upon their feet ready to do the LORD's bidding. The results were astonishing. It is the greatest movement in all the world, the one in God's saving hand. There were astounding miracles and thousands were converted to the truth. But it doesn't end there.

“The abruptness with which the book of Acts closes is not accidental; it deliberately suggests that the thrilling narrative is unfinished, and that the acts of God through the Spirit are to have their sequel throughout the Christian dispensation—each successive generation adding a chapter full of beauty and power to the one that preceded it.”

The Acts of the Apostles v

This same Spirit is calling us all. How will you react? Are you truly His? Are you living each day undividedly surrendered to Him? He wants to take you on an incredible journey. He bids us “rise and stand upon (our) feet” individually and through His Holy Spirit, impacting and leading others to continue an ancient yet far-reaching and ultimately eternal movement. The book of Acts is far from over and done with. Won’t you join the Acts again, ReAct?



Registration opens

March 1, 2026

Join us for an encouraging and inspirational retreat this
May, 2026.

- Heartfelt worship in song
- Outreach and literature evangelism
- Thought provoking devotionals and discussions
- Nature and recreation



AYM Ohio Retreat Highlights and Testimonies:

AyMing for the Mark

July, 2025

Last year, our retreat was focused on the life of Jesus through the book of Mark. We studied the divine example God gave us searching for the profound lessons applicable to our lives day by day. And as we aimed our focal points towards Jesus, the distractions of life grew more and more dim.

A highlight of last year's retreat was the hour of prayer Sabbath morning before breakfast. There was something special about likeminded young souls gathered in the solemn sanctuary to commune with our God. We prayed through categories like praise, repentance, and petitions. It wasn't just one or two people praying, but we took turns praying one or two sentences from a simple thank you from a grateful heart to a plea for the Holy Spirit from earnest lips. The presence of God was felt in the room. Time flew while communing with our Savior, and we left refreshed and in a peaceful state of mind prepared to worship Him on His holy Sabbath day.

Something wonderful about AYM Ohio is that it is a friendly, inviting group that feels like a family even when you've just met. The first time I went to an AYM Ohio retreat, it was in the spring of 2022 and was my first AYM retreat. I did not know very many people, yet the retreat had such a warm and welcoming feel, I felt right at home

The retreat was so uplifting and inspiring, I left thinking that it had been the best weekend of my life.

Little did I know that that summer I would be asked to join the team as their secretary. I was thrilled! The mission of AYM Ohio is something I firmly believe in. When we, as youth, come together to strengthen and encourage each other to continue to walk the walk not just talk the talk, it creates an environment of growth and inspiration to more closely follow the Great Shepherd. I'm so thankful for the work that God has been doing in my life through AYM Ohio over the last five years. And I pray that this can continue to reach and touch lives for many years to come until we meet face to face with the Author and Finisher of our faith.



Abrielle Dulac Gamallo is the secretary for AYM Ohio, and she enjoys serving God with all her life. Her favorite verses are Psalm 139:7-10 that say that no matter where she goes God is there.

I really enjoyed my time at AYM Ohio. The food, people, games, country setting, and the overall spiritual atmosphere was super pivotal in growing my relationship with God. At the time, there was a lot going on in my life, and I wasn't sure if taking the time out of my busy schedule to attend their retreat was going to be worth it. But I am SO glad I did. Not only did I grow spiritually and get some awesome food, I left for home feeling ready to tackle anything life threw my way. I highly recommend going to at least one AYM Ohio retreat. You don't know what you're missing out on until you do.

By Keiton Bahnmler

I really enjoyed AYM Ohio they choose really great topics and get great speakers that approach these subjects in a way that helps you get a greater understanding of Christ and his word.

There games are also really great and so much fun and the friendships and memories you make at AYM Ohio will last you a lifetime

I personally enjoy meeting new people and learning more about Christ and AYM Ohio has a great way of bringing those two together.

By Lydia Glick

AYM Ohio 2025 was one of the most fun experiences I've had. The games were always chaotic and fun, the food was delicious, and the sermons were interesting. I also really enjoyed staying in the guest house even though we were a bit crowded. My favorite part was probably outreach though. It was my first time going door to door so I was a bit nervous at first but once I was actually doing it it was easy. I enjoyed everything about AYM Ohio and I definitely plan to come again next year.

By Ellen Pavlovik

It would be hard to choose just one favorite thing about AYM OH. The whole retreat was a huge blessing and a lot of fun! I think the outreach activities, games and choir were some of my top favorites. It was also really fun to camp out in the guest house with all the other girls. It was a wonderful experience and I'm looking forward to going again next year!

By Naomi Pavlovik



Scan code for our 2025 retreat highlight video

Meet the team:





Alexander Hersberger
President



Mary Weaver
Vice President



Enos Hersberger
VP of Evangelism



Emma Weaver
VP of Logistics



Abrielle Dulac Gamallo
Secretary



Thomas Mayhew
General Advisor

The Team In Previous Years



Faithful in the Little Things

By Mary Weaver

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10

Some of the greatest lessons in leadership, faith, and integrity are found not in the spotlight, but in the shadows—when no one seems to be watching and nothing seems to be changing. One person that sticks out to me for being faithful in the small details is Joseph. Through betrayal from family and being torn away from everything he knew, and finally being thrown into jail for something he never did, we see him staying faithful with every detail of his life.

"Joseph's real character shines out, even in the darkness of the dungeon. He held fast his faith and patience... He did not brood upon his own wrongs, but forgot his sorrow in trying to lighten the sorrows of others".

Patriarchs and Prophets p.218

Never once do we read of him complaining that he didn't see a path forward, or for the way he was being treated. Likewise, Job was faithful in every area of life. When in the darkest time of his life, he exclaimed "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21) Only a continual and steadfast relationship with God and having learned to be faithful in the bleakest of times could have prepared him to endure this severe test and come out faithful. What does our life look like when no one is watching? Will we be faithful now so we can be faithful when the big tests come? May God be able to say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!" (Matthew 25:21)

Faithfulness isn't just about checking off all the boxes. It's about a deep, unwavering dedication to God, grounded in a love that doesn't waver whether we're seen or unseen. May the Lord help us to be faithful always, even when it feels like no one is watching. Because it's in those little moments when we think no one is watching that our true commitment to Him shines the brightest.

“The importance of little things is often underrated because they are small; but they supply much of the actual discipline of life. There are really no nonessentials in the Christian's life. Our character building will be full of peril while we underrate the importance of the little things.

Christ's Object Lessons p.356

Practical ways to be faithful now:

- Cultivate Consistency: Practice diligence, punctuality, and sincerity in all matters, no matter how trivial they seem.
- Trust the Process: Understand that faithfulness in the present, without immediate results, is an act of trust in God's timing and process of preparation.
- Pay attention to "little foxes" or small areas where it's easy to cut corners or slack off.

"All big things come from small beginnings. The seed of every habit is a single, tiny decision." – James Clear.



BE FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS



Worship





Uplifting Fellowship



Called to a High Destiny

By Ellen G. White

O that young men might appreciate the high destiny to which they are called! Ponder well the paths of your feet. Begin your work with high and holy purpose, and be determined that through the power of the grace of God, you will not diverge from the path of rectitude. If you begin to go in a wrong direction, every step will be fraught with peril and disaster, and you will go on straying from the path of truth, safety, and success. You need your intellect strengthened, your moral energies quickened, by divine power.

The cause of God demands the highest powers of the being, and there is urgent need in many fields for young men...There is need of men who can be trusted to labor in extensive fields that are now white to the harvest. Young men of ordinary ability, who give themselves wholly to God, who are uncorrupted by vice and impurity, will be successful, and will be enabled to do a great work for God. Let young men heed the admonition, and be sober-minded...

I entreat of you, careless, reckless youth of today, be converted, and become laborers together with God. Let it be the study of your life to bless and save others. If you seek help from God, His power working in you will bring to naught all opposing powers, and you will become sanctified through the truth. Sin is alarmingly prevalent among the youth of today, but let it be your purpose to do what you can to rescue souls from the power of Satan.

Messages to Young People p.22, 23

Visit us at aymohio.com
Or contact us at
aymohio20@gmail.com