



Merge is a **COLLABORATIVE** youth gathering that meets once a month. Rooted in the **PEACE-MAKING** way of Jesus, we seek to be a safe space for teenagers to experience **INCLUSIVE** community, build authentic **RELATIONSHIPS**, have **BIG FUN** and engage in **SERVICE** to others.

**You are welcome here...just as you are.**

**#merge #cantonandbeyond #justasyouare**

***Sunday Nights @6-7:30pm***

## CORE VALUES OF MERGE

**Collaborative.** Merge celebrates the diversity of many traditions while promoting unity and mutual cooperation. Several churches have come together to pool their resources of money, volunteers and spaces to create one common ministry to teenagers in and around Canton, Ohio.

**Peace-making way of Jesus.** Merge is rooted in the Gospel. We get that words like “Gospel” and “Jesus” can be scary and loaded terms for some people. And so, we understand the Gospel as a radically inclusive and loving way for peace. (Well, that’s not so bad, is it?) This means that we do not tell one another what to believe about Jesus. We only ask that we seek to know more about Jesus as a way to embrace the inclusive love of God (as we see God) and to participate in the restoration of all things.

**Inclusive.** Merge is a safe space for all teenagers. “Just as you are” is our motto and we mean it. We affirm LGBTQ teens, teens of all races and ethnicities, teens of all abilities and disabilities. You are welcome no matter your hair style, musical preference, high school or zip code. All math nerds, cheerleaders, marching band kids, skaters, athletes, hipsters, comic con kids, choir kids, weird kids and loners are invited. Teens who believe, doubt, wonder and question have a place here. You are welcome here...just as you are.

**Relationships.** Merge is relational at heart. We seek to build healthy relationships with Self, Others, and the God of our understanding so that we can belong to a community of friends that love us.

**Big Fun.** At Merge, we take fun seriously and ourselves not too seriously. Whether it’s a photo shoot with Flat Jesus, Zombie Apocalypse, Bouncy House Obstacle Course or a Luau in February, teens at Merge will play hard and laugh hard.

**Service.** Merge creates opportunities for teens to engage in the realities of our world by responding with meaningful service to others. **In all of our service, we remember that “we serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.”** (Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen)