

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
YOUTH



2025-2026 PROGRAM GUIDE

You belong here.



A note from Betsy

Dear Youth and Families,

Welcome to Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. Here, youth get to know God better while building relationships with their peers and adults in the church.

Our time together will be made up of three main components: service, fellowship, and faith formation. One week we might play games all over campus, while the next week we have small group discussions about our faith. One week we might do a service project, and one week we might explore how God calls us to love in the world. Every week is different and every week is a new chance to see what God is up to in your life!

Want to know what we're all about? Start by reading the 2025-26 Youth Program Guide!

Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me at any time.

With love and gratitude for each of you,

Betsy Kelly Williams
Director of Youth Ministries
Email: bwilliams@fpcraleigh.org
Cell: 919-886-1202
Office: 919-714-7211

Stay connected!

Weekly Email

Our weekly youth newsletter goes out midweek. It includes everything you need to know about what is coming up for FPC Youth. Please contact Betsy if you are not already receiving this email.

Text Messaging

Text message announcements and reminders will be sent out about upcoming FPC Youth events using a NEW platform this year. If you have not received a welcome text message from FPC Youth yet, please let Betsy know so we can get you connected.

Website - fpcraleigh.org/youth

Find the latest newsletter, information about Sunday School, trip registration links and more on the FPC Youth website.

Social Media

Instagram: @fpc_raleighyouth

Facebook: FPC Raleigh Youth





Sunday Overview

Worship

- 8:30am & 11:00am in the Sanctuary
 - Families are encouraged to participate in the life of the church by worshipping together on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School

- 9:45 - 10:45am in the Stock Building weekly (2nd floor)
 - 6th and 7th grade meet for Pre-Confirmation in the MS Room. This class studies the big picture of the Bible, taking 1 year to study the Old Testament and 1 year to study the New Testament.
 - 8th grade meets for Confirmation in the Confirmation Room. We ask big questions together and spend the year discerning what it is that we believe.
 - 9-12th grade meets for Sunday School in the HS Room. We will spend the year exploring practices that Jesus did, taught, or told us to do.

Youth Group

- 5:30 - 7:00pm in Memorial Hall + Stock Building
 - We meet first for dinner in Memorial Hall and then move into programming in the Stock Building youth rooms. Our primary goal is to create a safe space for tweens and teens to be themselves, ask the hard questions, and always feel supported in their Christian community.



Youth Leadership Team

7th Grade Representatives:

Luke Poisson
Lucy Weicher

8th Grade Representative:

Vacant

9th Grade Representative:

Harrison Mumma

10th Grade Representative:

Charlotte Ryan

11th Grade Representative:

Maddie Clarke

12th Grade Representative:

Vacant

What is the Youth Leadership Team and what do they do?

The Youth Leadership Team is a group of youth and adults who do three major things:

- Plan and lead Youth Group on Sunday nights (fellowship and mission focus)
- Reach out to youth in their grade
- Voice concerns and ideas of youth

Our hope is that each grade has at least one representative on the YLT.

We have a YLT so that youth are able to lead in our youth ministry program from their own perspective. This is important to our church and something we value as a youth ministry team.

Applications and selections for the 2026-2027 YLT will happen in April of 2026.

YLT meets on Zoom
7:30-8:15pm on Wednesdays.



Adult Leadership

Youth Advisors

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Natalie Harris | harrisn456@gmail.com |
| • Austyn Holleman | hollemaa@alumni.unc.edu |
| • Ron Matthes | rpmatthes@gmail.com |
| • Carlyne Sandoval | carolyne.sandoval98@gmail.com |
| • Janice Skelly | janskellyburns@gmail.com |
| • Nick Triggiano | nicktriggiano@gmail.com |

Youth Sunday School Teachers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| • David Kesterson (MS) | dckest@gmail.com |
| • Elizabeth Sparrow (MS) | esparrow3@gmail.com |
| • Betsy Williams (Conf.) | bwilliams@fpcraleigh.org |
| • Alan Jessup (HS) | ajessup07@gmail.com |
| • Babs Nichols (HS) | babsnichols@gmail.com |
| • David Poisson (HS) | davidspoisson@outlook.com |

2025 Christian Education Committee

- Becky Brown
- Emma Carmichael
- Nancy Crew
- Leigh Dickerhoff
- Edna Hensey
- Lu Little
- Ian McCaslin
- Babs Nichols
- Fran Yohman

For questions about the Christian Education Committee, please contact Becky Brown, Moderator
beckybrown1965@gmail.com

Mark your calendar!

September

7 - Youth Kick-off!
14 - Youth Group
21 - Youth Group
28 - Youth Group

October

6 - Youth Group
12 - Youth Group
19 - Youth Group
26 - No Youth Group (Trunk or Treat)

November

2 - Youth Group
9 - HS Only Youth Group (MS Retreat)
16 - Youth Group
23 - No Youth Group (Advent Festival)
30 - No Youth Group (Thanksgiving)

December

7 - No Youth Group (Pageant)
14 - Youth Group
21 - No Youth Group (Christmas)
28 - No Youth Group (New Year's)

January

4 - Youth Group
11 - Youth Group
18 - Youth Group
25 - No Youth Group (Ski Trip)

February

1 - Youth Group
8 - No Youth Group (Super Bowl)
15 - Youth Group
22 - Youth Group

March

1 - MS Only Youth Group (HS Retreat)
8 - Youth Group
15 - Youth Group
22 - Youth Group
29 - No Youth Group (Spring Break)

April

5 - No Youth Group (Easter)
12 - Youth Group
19 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
26 - Youth Sunday!

May

3 - Youth Family Potluck &
Senior Send-off!

*Please keep an eye on our weekly communications as minor changes may be made to this calendar throughout the year!

2025-2026 Retreats

Nov. 7 - 9, 2025

Middle School Service Retreat

When: November 7 - 9, 2025
Who: Current 6-8th graders
Where: Charlotte, NC
Cost: \$120
Register by: October 5th

6th-8th graders will partner with CROSS Missions for a fun weekend of bonding and service projects in and around Charlotte. We will spend time building relationships, making memories, and loving our neighbors.

Jan. 23 - 24, 2026

All Youth Ski Trip

When: January 23 - 24, 2026
Who: Current 6-12th graders
Where: Winterplace in Ghent, WV
Cost: \$250
Register by: December 14th

We'll charter a bus and stay in a hotel Friday night so that we're ready to ski all day Saturday. We'll hop on the bus Saturday at 5pm and head home. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced slopes are available!

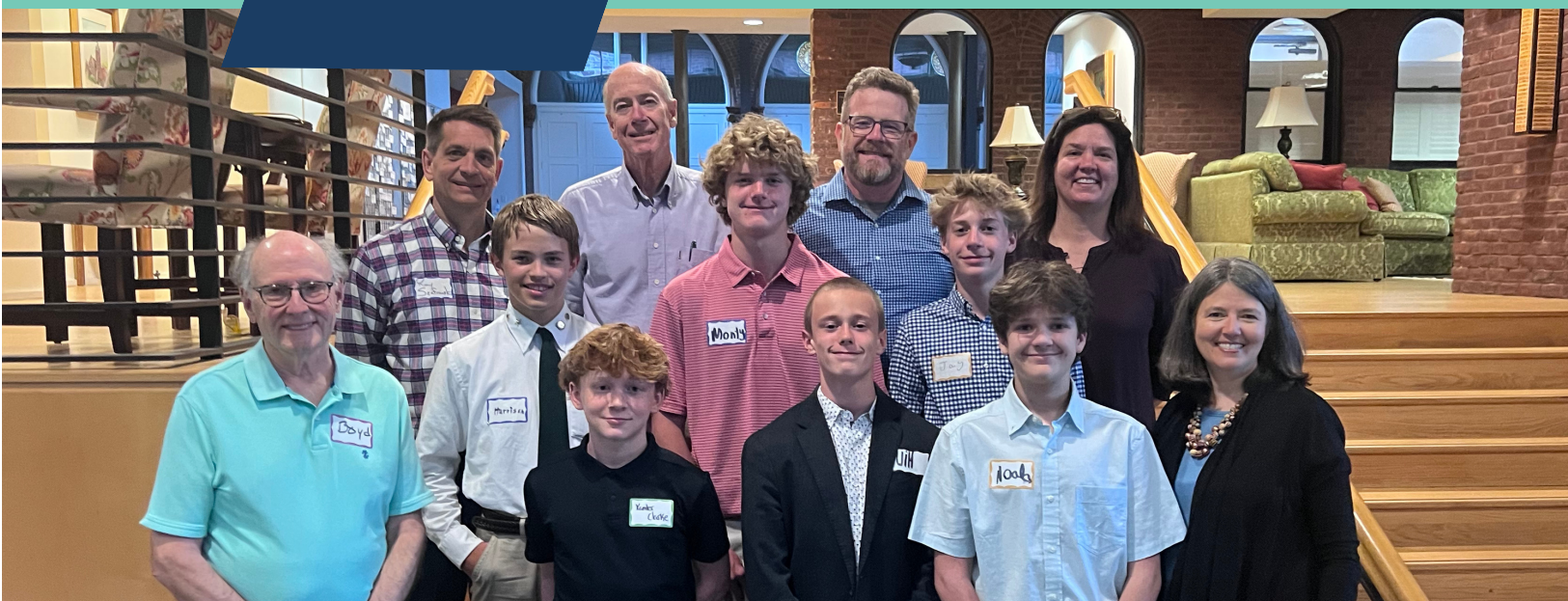
Feb. 27 - March 1, 2026

High School Service Retreat

When: February 27 - March 1, 2026
Who: Current 9-12th graders
Where: Asheville, NC
Cost: \$225
Register by: January 25th

9-12th graders will partner with Asheville Youth Mission for a wonderful weekend of worship, reflection, and service in Western North Carolina. We will develop a deeper sense of God's call for each of us to love our neighbor.





Confirmation

A year of exploring, questioning, and claiming your faith.

Youth in 8th grade have the opportunity to participate in our confirmation class. Confirmation will meet on Sundays at 9:45am on the 2nd floor of the Stock Building beginning on September 7.

Confirmation is a time of exploring faith, asking questions, and learning what it is that the Presbyterian Church (USA) believes. At the end of confirmation, youth will have the opportunity to join the church, though joining is not required - the goal is deep exploration of faith.

As youth engage with scripture, theology, and mission in new ways, they'll walk along this journey with mentors from the congregation, pastors, and church staff.

Please note the following important dates:

- September 7 - Confirmation Orientation(10:15am-10:45am | Parents + Youth)
- November 7-9 - Middle School Service Retreat (6-8th graders)
- January 28 - Meet with Session (Wednesday, 7pm)
- February 1 - Joining Sunday (11am worship)

To learn more about confirmation, reach out to Betsy Williams.



“hey Betsy, how can parents get involved?!”

Host a Sunday Dinner!

Our Sunday evening dinners are prepared and served by families and church members. We know that committing to serve for our whole youth group is a big commitment on top of your already busy schedule, so we are so grateful! You can find the sign-up for Sunday Dinners in the weekly youth newsletter, on the youth website, or contact Betsy Williams.

Chaperone a Trip or Special Event

It takes many hands and loving hearts to pull off our retreats, special events (fundraisers, the pageant, and other fun things), and summer trips! Check your calendars now. If you're willing to join us as a chaperone for a meaningful experience for our youth, let Betsy know!

Encourage Your Youth!

We know that for most youth, middle and high school bring big transitions, tough moments, and busy schedules. Please know that we are here for you and your youth through it all. Our hope is that the church can be a place unlike the rest of your teenager's world; that here we can just be, without expectations or pressures. We trust that you will join us in encouraging them to make time for this space and this community as they can.

Invite Betsy to Cheer Them On!

If your child is involved in an event Betsy can attend (games, concerts, etc.) please invite her! She'd love to come support them in their lives outside of church too!

Summer 2026

As a part of our ministry's yearly rhythm, we attend conferences where youth and their leaders gather to worship, play, and grow together in faith. Our groups return from these trips with inside jokes, stories, and memories that last a lifetime! Conferences provide emotionally, spiritually, and physically safe spaces to think through theology, challenge our current thinking, find inspiration, and learn and grow together as a church family.

June 14 - 19, 2026

High School Service Trip

When: June 14 - 19, 2026
Who: Current 8-12th graders
Where: Charleston, SC
Cost: \$400

We will partner with Charleston Youth Mission for a wonderful week of learning, service, and reflection. Together we'll explore God's call for justice and equity while working alongside neighbors living on the margins.

June 21 - 27, 2026

Worship & Music Conference

When: June 21 - 27, 2026
Who: Current 6-12th graders
Where: Montreat, NC
Cost: \$500

Worship & Music is an intergenerational conference in Montreat, NC for children, youth, and adults who love to sing, play, learn, and worship together. Musically inclined youth are encouraged to sign up, but musical skills are not required!

July 9 - 12, 2026

Massanetta Middle School Conference

When: July 9 - 12, 2026
Who: Current 5-8th graders
Where: Massanetta Springs, VA
Cost: \$300

Massanetta is a conference designed JUST for middle school brains! We'll spend 4 days at Massanetta listening to keynote speakers, doing energizers, going to worship, singing, sticking our feet in the springs, and bonding as a group.

July 19 - 25, 2026

Montreat Youth Conference

When: July 19 - 25, 2026
Who: Current 8-12th graders
Where: Montreat, NC
Cost: \$500

We'll spend a week in the mountains worshipping, reflecting, laughing, playing, praying, and growing in our relationships with each other and God. We'll stay in a house and prepare meals together. We hope you'll join us!



2026 Summer Trip Registration Process

Registration for all summer trips will happen online with a \$200 deposit required at registration. Registration links can be found on the FPC Youth website.

Registering EARLY helps us to make more accurate early-bird group holds for FPC, locking in less expensive rates for our group, being good stewards of your family's and the church's budget.

Final payments for all summer trips are due Sunday, May 3.

Fall Registration Period

OCTOBER 1, 2025 to NOVEMBER 1, 2025

This is not first-come, first-served. All who register online and pay a \$200 non-refundable deposit between these dates will have a guaranteed spot on summer trips. Adults will be invited to participate as summer trip leaders during this period.

Winter Registration Period

JANUARY 4, 2026 to MARCH 1, 2026

There is no guarantee that trips will have spaces available during this registration period. Adults will be invited to participate as summer trip leaders during this time.

Open Registration Period

MARCH 1 until TRIPS FILL or 30 DAYS BEFORE TRIP DEPARTURE

We will do our best to register you for trips after March 1, but cannot guarantee your space. To confirm space availability, all of your paperwork and deposit must be completed and turned in. We may only be able to accept registrations after March 1 if there is a cancellation by another registered participant.

**Cost should never keep youth from joining us!
Scholarships available. Reach out to Betsy.**

Summary of Estimated Cost

Date	Event	Who?	Total	Deposit	Due	Balance	Due
November 7-9	MS Service Retreat	6-8 th grade	\$120	-	-	-	October 5
January 23-24	All Youth Ski Trip	6-12 th grade	\$250	-	-	-	December 14
February 27 - March 1	HS Service Retreat	9-12 th grade	\$225	-	-	-	January 25

Summer 2026

Date	Event	*Who?	Total	Deposit	Due	Balance	Due
June 14-20	Worship & Music	6-12 th grade	\$500	\$200	ASAP	\$300	May 3
June 23-26	MS Massanetta	5-7 th grade	\$300	\$200	ASAP	\$100	May 3
June 28 - July 3	HS Service Trip	8-12 th grade	\$400	\$200	ASAP	\$200	May 3
July 12-18	HS Montreat	8-12 th grade	\$500	\$200	ASAP	\$300	May 3

*Grade completed as of summer 2026

We are blessed with a healthy church budget. That means:

- FPC subsidizes all events, including weekend retreats, the ski trip, Worship and Music, Massanetta, Montreat, and the High School Service Trip.
- Everyone can participate, regardless of cost. Financial aid is available. Talk to Betsy!
- Any additional gift you are able to make is welcome and will help offset extra expenses and provide scholarships for youth.