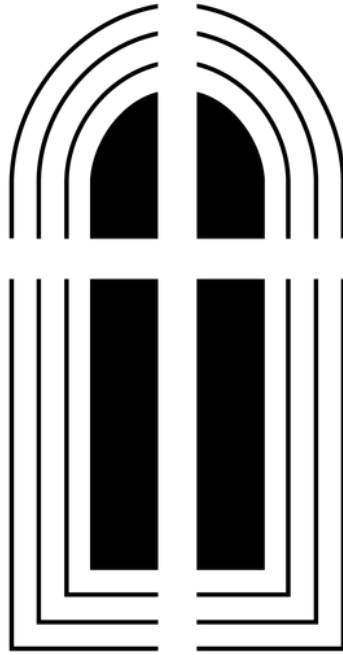




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh Youth

2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE



Dear Youth and Families,

Welcome to Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. Our hope is to create a safe space for youth and their families to explore faith, build community, and grow as disciples of Christ, so that they may encounter God's love and share it with the world.

Youth Ministry at FPC is guided by seven core values:

- **Christ Centered** - We root all that we do in Scripture.
- **Safety** - We train leaders well and take emotional and physical well-being seriously.
- **Community** - We invest in relationships and care for one another.
- **Personal Faith** - We encourage youth to ask questions, name doubts, and grow in faith that is their own.
- **Inclusivity** - We welcome every young person as they are and create a community where youth can embrace their authentic selves.
- **Youth Voice** - We invite youth to help shape decisions that affect them.
- **Service** - We invest our time and talents to recognize and meet the needs of our community.

We hope to be a Youth Ministry where young people are deeply known and loved. We want youth to experience a church that shows up for them and cares about their whole lives, so that years from now they can look back and say that this ministry shaped them and FPC Raleigh remains a place they want to come back to. Want to know more? Start by reading the 2026-27 Youth Program Guide!

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

With love and gratitude for each of you,

David Poisson

Interim Youth Director

Email: dpoisson@fpcraleigh.org

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 Jean Suber, Director of Communications, if you are not already receiving this email.

Text Messaging

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

Website - fpcraleigh.org/youth

Find information about Sunday School, trip registration links, youth mental health resources, and more on the FPC Youth website.

Realm

Launched in 2025, Realm is the church's new portal for the church directory, event registration (including youth trips), and online giving. If you do not already have a Realm account, please reach out to the church office for assistance in getting set up.

Social Media

Instagram: @fpc_raleighyouth
Facebook: FPC Raleigh Youth





Sunday Overview

Sunday School

- 9:45am -
 - All 6-12th graders gather together in the Stock Building 2nd floor lobby before classes begin. Games, snacks, jams. Come as you are!
- 9:45-10:00am - Class
 - 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 Coffee Shop Sunday School. We'll gather in the Stock Building, then at 10:00 we'll walk together to a downtown coffee shop to check in about our week, explore some Big Faith Questions, and see how we can support one another in prayer during the upcoming week.

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 faith community.

**Sundays
5:30-7pm**

Youth Group calendar!

September

6 - No Youth Group (Labor Day)
13 - Youth Group + Parent Meeting
20 - Youth Group
27 - Youth Group

October

4 - Youth Group
11 - Small Groups (MS + HS off site)
18 - Youth Group
25 - No Youth Group (Trunk or Treat)

November

1 - Youth Group
8 - Small Groups (MS + HS)
15 - Youth Group
22 - No Youth Group (MS Retreat)
29 - No Youth Group (Thanksgiving)

December

6 - Small Groups (MS + HS off site)
13 - No Youth Group (Pageant)
20 - No Youth Group (Christmas)
27 - No Youth Group (New Year's)

January

3 - Youth Group
10 - Small Groups (MS + HS)
17 - Youth Group
24 - No Youth Group (Ski Trip)
31 - Youth Group

February

7 - Small Groups (MS + HS)
14 - No Youth Group (All Church Retreat)
21 - Youth Group
28 - Youth Group

March

7 - No Youth Group (Presbytery Retreat)
14 - Youth Group
21 - Small Groups (MS + HS)
28 - No Youth Group (Easter)

April

4 - No Youth Group (Spring Break)
11 - Youth Sunday Writing
18 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
25 - Youth Sunday!

May

2 - 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!

7th Grade Representatives:
(vacant)

8th Grade Representative:
EB Tunnell
Lucy Weicher

9th Grade Representative:
May Macolly

10th Grade Representative:
Harrison Mumma

11th Grade Representative:
Charlotte Ryan

12th Grade Representative:
Maddie Clarke

Youth Leadership Team

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.

YLT meets quarterly.





Adult Leadership

Youth Advisors

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • Duncan Burns | johnduncanburns@gmail.com |
| • Natalie Harris | harrisn456@gmail.com |
| • Austyn Holleman | hollemaa@alumni.unc.edu |
| • Ron Matthes | rpmatthes@gmail.com |
| • Carolyn 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 |
| • Emma Carmichael (Conf.) | ehcarmichael12@gmail.com |
| • Hope Carmichael (HS) | hcarmichael@jordanprice.com |
| • Jane Hemingway (HS) | jbhemingway@gmail.com |
| • Alan Jessup (HS) | ajessup07@gmail.com |
| • Babs Nichols (HS) | babsnichols@gmail.com |

2026 Youth Ministry Subcommittee

- Alan Jessup
- Betsy Reams
- Carolyn Sandoval
- Janice Skelly
- Elizabeth Sparrow
- Lora Swindell (chair)



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 13.

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 13 - Confirmation Orientation (10:15am-10:45am | Parents + Youth)
- November 20-22 - Middle School Service Retreat (6-8th graders)
- January 27 - Meet with Session (Wednesday, 7pm)
- February 7 - Joining Sunday (11am worship)

To learn more about Confirmation, email Laurie Taylor Weicher (lweicher@fpcraleigh.org)

2026-2027 Youth Retreats

Nov. 20 - 22, 2026

Middle School Service Retreat

When: November 20 - 22, 2026
Who: Current 6-8th graders
Where: Asheville, NC
Cost: \$180
Register by: October 5th

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

March 5 - 7, 2027

New Hope Presbytery Retreat

When: March 5 - 7, 2027
Who: Current 6-12th graders
Where: Washington, NC
Cost: \$100
Register by: January 31st

Spend the weekend at Roanoke Christian Camp with youth from different churches in New Hope Presbytery! We'll hear engaging keynotes, meet new friends in small groups, be led in worship by the Youth Council, and have plenty of free time to play.

Jan. 22 - 23, 2027

All Youth Ski Trip

When: January 22 - 23, 2027
Who: Current 6-12th graders
Where: Winterplace in Ghent, WV
Cost: \$250
Register by: December 6th

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!

**Scholarship funds are available for
ALL trips!**

**Codes to use during registration:
HALFSCHOLARSHIP
FULLSCHOLARSHIP**



Special Events

Youth Mega Day

August 29-30. An all-day/all-night event of service, play, worship, and fellowship to kick off the new year.

Trunk or Treat

October 25. A family-friendly evening of costumes, candy, games, and community fun in the church parking lot. Youth are invited to host a trunk!

Advent Festival

November 22. An intergenerational event of crafts and activities to help prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Youth Basketball League - Alan Jessup (ajessup07@gmail.com)

December - March. A fun and encouraging league where youth build skills, teamwork, and character through basketball.



Save the date!

Christmas Pageant

December 13. Celebrate the birth of Christ through music, costumes, and storytelling. Youth are invited to play lead roles and helper angels/shepherds.

All Church Retreat

February 12-14. A weekend away in Montreat with the whole church family to grow in faith, build friendships, and enjoy fellowship together.

Youth Sunday

April 25. A special worship service led by our youth as they share their gifts, leadership, and faith with the congregation.

Youth Family Potluck & Senior Send-off

May 3. All youth and their parents are invited to gather for a potluck dinner as we celebrate our program year and send seniors off with our blessings.



Summer 2027

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 13 - 19, 2027

High School Service Trip

When: June 13 - 19, 2027
Who: Current 8-12th graders
Where: Appalachia (location TBD)
Cost: \$400

Appalachia Service Project is back! We'll have 3 crews working to make homes warmer, safer, and dryer. ASP has sites across NC, VA, WV, KY, and TN. As in 2025, we'll hear from ASP in late spring with our exact location. Required tools training 10am June 12.

June 23 - July 3, 2027

Worship & Music Conference

When: June 27 - July 3, 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 8-11, 2027

Massanetta Middle School Conference

When: July 8 - 11, 2027
Who: Current 5-8th graders
Where: Massanetta Springs, VA
Cost: \$350

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 18-24, 2027

Montreat Youth Conference

When: July 18 - 24, 2027
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!



2027 Registration Process

Registration for all summer trips will happen on Realm with a \$200 deposit required at registration. 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 Monday, March 1.

Fall Registration Period

OCTOBER 1, 2026 to NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Worship and Music & Massanetta: 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.

ASP & Montreat: The number of spots available for ASP and Montreat is limited by transportation and housing. Spots are first-come, first-served.

Winter Registration Period

JANUARY 4, 2026 to MARCH 1, 2026

There is no guarantee that trips will have spaces available during this registration period. If needed, we will move to a waitlist. 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.

Youth Trip Refund Policy

Because trip reservations and payments are made in advance based on participant registrations, refunds can only be provided under the conditions outlined below:

Before March 1: A refund of payments made beyond the \$200 deposit will only be issued if another participant is able to take the canceled spot. If there is no waitlist, the cancelling family is responsible for finding a replacement.

After March 1: No refunds will be issued, as trip balances and commitments will already have been paid.



“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! Menus are pre-planned and groceries are pre-shopped, so all you have to do is show up, cook and serve the meal, and clean up afterward. You can find the sign-up for Sunday Dinners in the weekly youth newsletter, on the youth website, or contact David Poisson.

Trips, Special Events, or Small Group!

It takes many hands and loving hearts to pull off our retreats, special events (Mega Day, the pageant, Christmas parties, and other fun things), summer trips, and monthly small group gatherings! Check your calendars now. If you're willing to join us as an adult leader for a meaningful experience for our youth, let David 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.**

Summary of Estimated Cost

Date	Event	Who?	Total	Deposit	Due	Balance	Due
November 20-22	MS Service Retreat	6-8 th grade	\$180	-	-	-	October 5
January 22-23	All Youth Ski Trip	6-12 th grade	\$250	-	-	-	December 6
March 5-7	Presbytery Retreat	6-12 th grade	\$100	-	-	-	January 31

Summer 2027

Date	Event	*Who?	Total	Deposit	Due	Balance	Due
June 13-19	HS Service Trip	8-12 th grade	\$400	\$200	ASAP	\$200	March 1
June 27 - July 3	Worship & Music	6-12 th grade	\$500	\$200	ASAP	\$300	March 1
July 8-11	Massanetta	5-8 th grade	\$350	\$200	ASAP	\$150	March 1
July 18-24	HS Montreat	8-12 th grade	\$500	\$200	ASAP	\$300	March 1

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. Designated scholarship funds are available for every trip.

*Grade completed as of summer 2027

