



FPC YOUTH MINISTRY

2024 - 2025

HOUELS

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SPARTANBURG, SC



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2024-2025 THEME



"So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."

1 Corinthians 3:7

We are always experiencing some type of growth. It's all a matter of slowing down to see it happening. Teenage years are full of growth: height, ability, emotionally, maturity (hopefully) but what does it mean that we are growing in our faith? What if I feel like I'm not growing closer to God at all?

We look forward to imagining, wrestling, celebrating, grieving and discovering the growth you're experiencing in this season...but also lifting up the pains of these growing edges of ourselves. It's not always easy to grow, but we trust that God is with us through it all.

NOTE TO YOUTH & FAMILIES

Greetings!

Ephesians 4:1-4 (ceb) says "I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. 2 Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, 3 and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. 4 You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope."

These words from the writer of Ephesians encapsulate what we are all about as a youth ministry: from leadership, to volunteers, to our youth themselves. God has uniquely equipped each of us to be a gift to the church and the world. Life isn't meant to be done alone and the church cannot stand on the gifts of a single person. Youth group is where our young people come to learn what it means to live and grow in beloved community. We are so excited to welcome you as we traverse the journey of faith together!

Peace Be with You,



Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
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Youth & Campus Ministries
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Grace DeMaine
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
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Youth Ministry Coordinator
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COMMUNICATIONS



fpcspartanburgyouth.org

Our website is the one-stop-shop for all things youth ministry at First Presbyterian Spartanburg. Whether you're curious about the calendar, getting registered for events, or simply want to know about our philosophy of Youth Ministry - the website is the best place to go!



Monthly Newsletter & Weekly Email

Our Monthly Newsletter is sent via email on the first of every month and includes a calendar of all events coming up that month. Additionally, the Weekly Email is sent out every Monday and includes the schedule of events for that week along with any updates or changes to the normal routine.



REMIND APP

REMIND is a mobile application you can download on any iOS or Android device. We use this to quickly communicate with parents and youth to let you know about any sudden changes to scheduling, reminders of events, or changes to plans such as location or timing.

Use the QR code to our Linktree below to sign up!



Social Media

Instagram and Facebook are our go to social media platforms. We share images and videos of upcoming and past youth group gatherings, mission projects, and more! We believe social media is a great tool to both communicate with youth and tell the story of our ministry at FPC Spartanburg. Use our usernames below to connect with us on both!



@fpcsyouthandcampus



@fpcsym

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Sundays

Sunday School

10 -10:45 AM

ALL Youth will start the Sunday School hour in the Game Room (Rm 201 FLC) for food and fellowship. Then we will split up the Middle and High Schoolers.

Middle School (MS Room, Rm 202 FLC)

High School (HS Room, Rm 207 FLC)

Youth Group (NEW Sunday night rotation; see page 8 & 9 for more details)

5-6 PM Middle School

6-7 PM High School



Weekdays

Java & Jesus (Grades 9-12)

Tuesdays 7-7:45 AM at Chic-fil-A

(coordinated rides to school)

East Side weekly, Boiling Springs once a month

WAF Small Groups

Wednesdays 6:30-7:15 PM (Grades 6-12)

Middle School Girls Bible Study

Fridays, 3:30 - 4:30pm at Starbucks on

E. Main St (behind the Fresh Market)

FALL SEMESTER SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE



September:

1st - Labor Day
8th - Small Group
Dinners
15th - Mission Project
22nd - Sabbath Sunday
29th - Youth Group @
FPC



November:

3rd - Sabbath Sunday
(Fall Break)
10th - MS Foothills
Presbytery Retreat
17th - Mission Project
24th - Youth
Thanksgiving Feast



October:

6th - Sabbath Sunday
13th - HS Sabbath
Retreat (Lake Keowee)
20th - Mission Project
27th - Shelter Service



December:

1st - Sabbath
8th - Sabbath
15th - Progressive Dinners
22nd - NO YOUTH
29th - NO YOUTH (HAPPY
NEW YEARS!)



SPRING SEMESTER

SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE



January:

5th - NO YOUTH
(Winter Break)
12th - HS Retreat
19th - Mission Project
26th - Confirmation
Retreat & Sabbath
Sunday



March:

2nd - Youth
Sunday/Sabbath
9th - Small Group
Dinners
16th - Mission Project
23rd - Youth Group
30th - Youth Group



February:

2nd - Youth Group
9th - Small Group
Dinners
16th - Ski Retreat (8th-
12th Grade)
23rd - Mission Project



April:

6th - NO YOUTH (Spring
Break)
13th - Small Group
Dinners
20th - NO YOUTH
(Easter Sunday)
27th - Confirmation
Sunday



NEW SUNDAY NIGHT ROTATION!

Sunday nights are going to look a little this year! We will be implementing a rotation of Sunday Night Small Group Dinners, Sunday Service projects, Sunday Night Youth at church and Sabbath Sunday. Pay attention to the monthly calendar in each newsletter as well as our Weekly Email for more info!

SPECIAL EVENTS

FALL

August

25th Fall Kickoff

September

8th Rally Day & Youth
Small Group Dinners

October

10-12th HS Fall Retreat
(Lake Keowee)
27th Shelter Service

November

8-10th MS Presbytery
Retreat (Asbury Hills)
24th Youth Thanksgiving
"Family Feud"

December

15th Youth Progressive
Dinners
24th Christmas Eve
Services

SPRING

January

10-12th HS Presbytery
Retreat (Montreat)
24-25th Confirmation
Retreat

February

14-16th Ski Retreat

March

2nd Youth Sunday

April

13th Palm Sunday
20th Easter
27th Confirmation
Sunday

May

18th Baccalaureate
Sunday

Dates and events are subject to change.

Stay up to date with weekly email, instagram, and website for details

CONFIRMATION

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Sunday mornings, January - April

Confirmation is a class. You are warmly welcomed here regardless of your background or experiences with church, faith, or God.

Confirmation is a safe space where we embrace questions and explore the depths of our spiritual wonderings. Together, we cultivate a mindset of imagination and resilience as we grow in our faith.

Confirmation classes take place from January until Confirmation Sunday on April 27th. Although not required, those in the class who would like to do so may take their vows for membership in the church on Confirmation Sunday.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED MID-FALL. Please reach out to JD (jddebevoise@fpcspartanburg.org) with any questions!

Opening Retreat, January 24th-25th

Our confirmation retreats welcome all youth in 9th grade to embark on a transformative journey of faith exploration. These retreats mark the beginning and end of our confirmation class, playing a crucial role in fostering deep connections and bonds within the group. During these retreats, we engage in activities that encourage us to learn about our faith, connect with one another, and find solace in the beauty of nature.



'24 - '25 RETREATS

October 11-13

Lake Keowee Sabbath Retreat

Current 9th-12th Grade

\$250 per person

High Schoolers are invited to join us for a weekend at the lake for some mid-semester rest, reflection, and relaxation.



November 8-10

Foothills Presbytery Middle School Retreat (Asbury Hills)

Current 6th-8th Grade

\$250 per person

Middle Schoolers are invited to join other youth from the Foothills Presbytery for a fun weekend retreat in the mountains!



January 10-12

Foothills Presbytery HS Retreat (Montreat)

Current 9th-12th Grade

\$250 per person

High Schoolers are invited to join youth from the Foothills Presbytery for a fun weekend in Montreat... AND JD & Eliza are keynoting this year!



February 14-16

Ski Retreat (Winterplace, WV)

Current 8th - 12th Grade

\$450 per person

Youth currently in 8th - 12th grades are invited to travel to Winterplace, WV for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding and/or snow tubing!



SUMMER '25



Vacation Bible School

Volunteers are always needed to help lead VBS and our youth are strongly encouraged to serve as grade level guides, art assistants, music assistants and more! . VBS+ is a great way for our current 6th graders to get involved and serve our church and local missions!

Massanetta Springs

Middle School Conference

June 24th-27th

Cost: \$550

Rising 6th-Rising 8th Grade



Dominican Republic Mission Trip

June 28th-July 5th

Cost TBA (Fundraisers will take place during the year to help subsidize!)

Current 9th-12th graders



Montreat Youth Conference

July 19-26th

Cost: \$700/person (scholarships available)

High School



SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Register early! Our trips may fill up and its best to get registered as soon as you can. When you register, a non-refundable trip deposit of \$100 will be due.

MARCH 1, 2025: REGISTRATION DEADLINE

We encourage you to register early, but March 1 is the deadline to register. Our trips have a maximum number of people we can take, and these spaces are given on a first come first serve basis, they may fill up before March 1. Each trip requires specific forms, they will be available with registration and communicated to registered participants when they are available.

REGISTRATION AFTER MARCH 1

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. Also, the total cost of your trip could increase by 10% or more depending on the policy of the organization we are traveling with. We may only be able to accept registrations after March 1 if there is a cancellation by another registered participant.

TRIP CANCELLATIONS

Your deposit per trip per person is non-refundable. We will do our best to refund you the remainder of the balance. Refunds are based on several factors, including the amount we have already paid for registrations, the policies of the organization we go with, and the time remaining before we leave for the trip. If there is someone to take your place, we will refund you the entire cost of the trip once that person registers in full, including any additional late registration fees.

TRIP SCHOLARSHIPS

Please do not let the cost of a trip prohibit you from coming. We are blessed to have a fund specifically dedicated to help provide scholarships for youth retreats and trips. If you'd like some help with trip costs please contact John Daniel.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering for our youth group on Sunday nights is a joyous opportunity to tap into your inner child, have fun, and contribute to the creation of a network of supportive and faithful adults for our youth. By walking alongside them on their journey of faith, you play a vital role in providing a safe and nurturing environment where our youth can grow, thrive, and build strong connections that will positively impact their lives for years to come.

Confirmation Group Leaders

We are always looking for individuals who are interested in serving as either Confirmation group leaders or mentors to our individual confirmands. Group leaders help facilitate discussion in small group during our confirmation sessions. If possible, we ask that group leaders make sure to be at the retreats and confirmation classes.

Mentors are personally asked and selected by the confirmands. A Confirmation mentor carries the responsibility of walking alongside a confirmand through this season of life. Our hope is that the mentor/mentee relationship develops into one well beyond the 3 months of the confirmation process!

Chaperones for Trips

Volunteering to be a chaperone on our youth group trips is a rewarding experience that allows you to forge meaningful connections with the youth on a deeper level. As a chaperone, you have the opportunity to support, guide, and mentor young individuals, creating lasting memories and positively impacting their lives through your presence and involvement.

Support List

Being a supporter of our youth ministry by joining the support list is a powerful way to uplift and encourage our youth group members. By writing cards and sending thoughtful notes, you have the opportunity to demonstrate that they are not alone, that they are loved, and that there are people praying for them, fostering a sense of belonging, support, and reassurance in their faith journey. Your small acts of kindness can have a significant impact on the lives of our youth, reminding them of the caring community that surrounds them.





ABOUT FPC SPARTANBURG

Our youth group is a part of the larger ministry of First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination.

Over 170 years ago, an inspired group of believers built a church community for their small town. Today, the congregation of First Pres continues to grow the vision and values of that dedicated group of Presbyterians by shining a light for all who seek a meaningful relationship with God.

FPC Spartanburg's Mission

To Glorify God and Share Christ together through Word and Deed.

Our Vision

To be a place where:

- people come to worship
- people love to give their time in mission and service
- people love to share their financial resources
- people love to study and proclaim the word of God
- people love to spend time together as the body of Christ
- people love each other, and
- all are welcome.



FPC Spartanburg

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Youth Ministry

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