



**2023-2024  
WMPC  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
PLANNING GUIDE**

**WHO  
DO YOU SAY  
I AM?**

# YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

## September

Fall Kickoff - First Sunday after  
Labor Day  
HS Beach Retreat

## October

HS Campfire Theology Kickoff  
MS Small Group Kickoff

## November

HS Mountain Retreat  
MS Fall Retreat

## December

Carol Fest  
Youth Christmas Parties

## January

Youth Lockout

## February

Youth Sunday  
Youth Ministry Fundraiser

## March

Confirmation Retreat  
Joint Spring Retreat

## April

Confirmation Sunday  
Youth Ministry Finale

## May

End of Sunday School

## June

High School Graduation  
Sunday  
Appalachia Service Project  
MS Massanetta Springs  
Conference

## July

HS Montreat Conference  
Middle School Mission Trip

## August

Teacher/Leader Orientation

# YOUTH MINISTRY

At White Memorial we have a goal to bring young people together in a life of faith, action, and fellowship, and to address spiritual, emotional, and social needs unique to youth. We want to create a brave and nurturing space for teenagers to gather together to share their celebrations and challenges with each other and with caring adults. Our desire is that everyone involved with this ministry might encounter Christ so that all of us may grow in fellowship together in discipleship to God.



## OUR VALUES

### Welcoming

Practicing radical hospitality to engage youth in relationships.



### Relevant

Meeting youth where they are in their lives, in their language, modeling Christian living.

### Integrated into the Life of the Church

Youth are visible, excited participants alongside their church family in a lifelong journey of faith.









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## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS**

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is offered during the school year (September-May) for 6th through 12th grade youth. Students gather in the Youth Hub each Sunday morning from 9:30-9:45 a.m. for doughnuts and lemonade, announcements, and prayer before being dismissed to their classrooms.

9:30 – The Gathering in The Hub – All 6th - 12th graders meet together before classes begin.

9:45 – Middle School, Confirmation and High School classes meet until 10:30 a.m.

#### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation is for our 8th grade students. In this program, students have the opportunity to learn and grow in the theology, worship, history and traditions of the Presbyterian Church. We will have a ton of fun too, while striving to create a warm community where students are invited to ask the hard questions and examine their own faith. At the end of the experience, each participant will be invited to write their own faith statement and become a full member of White Memorial Presbyterian Church.





# YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

All students are invited to come and explore their faith with us!

WMPC Youth strives to balance programs that include both big and small group gatherings. From games and recreation to reflection and contemplation, we know that everyone connects to God differently.

## YOUTH GROUP

Our Sunday Night Youth Group program is for both middle and high school students. We begin with dinner, \$6 each, and spend time playing on purpose as we grow in our faith and discipleship. You can expect a fun night that balances big group time, smaller breakout groups, discussions and contemplative time with music. Youth Group nights are designed to start off your week energized in your faith! Friends are always welcome!

## HIGH SCHOOL CAMPFIRE THEOLOGY

Grab your camping chair and blanket and join us in the Dover parking lot for a laid back and casual evening around the campfire. From life application to current events, we discuss the intersection of our faith and our lives. The chill atmosphere makes this an easy event for high schoolers to show up as they are. A pizza dinner is served for \$6.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

These small groups are one of the best ways to get plugged in as a middle schooler! Throughout the year, our middle school leadership team, in tandem with adult leaders, lead small groups in relevant discussions, group activities and some hilarious games. The adult leaders assign small groups, but are always ready to add new folks. We will be serving pizza (\$6) at each small group gathering- so don't forget to invite your friends!

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

This beloved and relaxed event is for both middle and high schoolers to come and discuss their faith questions with a coffee-house type setting. We serve coffee (DECAF) and hot chocolate and write down our faith questions to be discussed by the group. All questions and questioners are welcome because this is the place where mystery and doubt have a prominent seat at the table.





# WMPC YOUTH LEADERSHIP

## **HLT (HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM)**

The High School Leadership Team (HLT) is a team of 9th-12th graders who meet weekly on Zoom to plan youth group events, youth retreats, learn leadership skills and help facilitate youth events. Our HLT focuses on leadership development in the areas of public speaking, writing prayers or liturgy, programming, empowering the gifts of others and practicing hospitality.

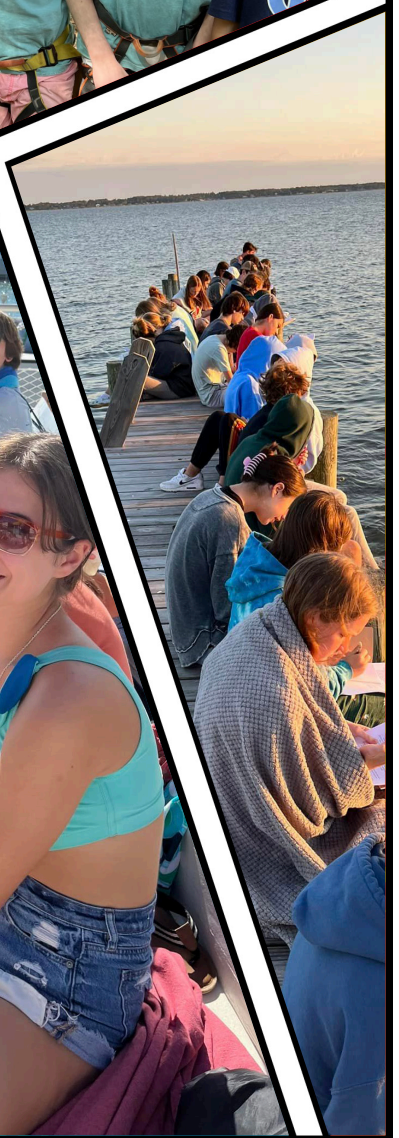
## **MLT (MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM)**

The “MLT” is a team of 7th and 8th grade students who want to deepen their faith and discipleship by brainstorming ideas, creating programming, and become small group leaders for the middle school youth of White Memorial. This team applies in the fall and then meets weekly.

## **ADULT YOUTH ADVISORS**

Adult leaders are the backbone of any healthy youth ministry. Being a youth adviser for WMPC Youth not only involves large group program assistance, leading small groups and facilitating discussions, but also playing a vital role in welcoming students and loving them exactly where they are. Youth Advisers are equipped by the youth staff through fall training and weekly meetings. All of our youth advisers go through Safe Sanctuary training and background checks. We are so thankful for the time, energy and passion that these faithful adults play in the lives of teenagers in our church.







## RETREATS AND BIG EVENTS

From games and recreation to reflection and contemplation, we know that everyone connects to God differently. All youth are invited to attend and bring a friend!

### HIGH SCHOOL BEACH RETREAT

**September. 30 -  
October - 1, 2023  
Cost: \$155  
Grade: 9th - 12th**

Come get away with us for a weekend of Sabbath as the school year kicks into high gear. Being in high school can get stressful and sometimes you need time away to just be a teenager. This weekend trip has a long and rich history at White Memorial. Join us as we head to Pine Knolls Shores on the Crystal Coast to stay at the Trinity Center, spend time on the beach and enjoy a catamaran adventure. We return back to church on Sunday afternoon rested, recharged, renewed and ready for whatever comes next.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

**November 17-19, 2023  
Cost: \$155  
Grade: 6th - 8th**

Calling all middle schoolers! Join us for the best two nights and two days of fun, fellowship, friendships and great food! We will head to Camp Kanata, with other middle school students across the Presbytery to grow in faith, make new friends as we learn and play together. If you love campfires, archery, canoeing, Gaga ball and field games, this is the retreat for you! You'll hear us talk about the ways to get plugged into youth ministry at WMPC are to give us a few weeks and a retreat- well, this one is customized with middle schoolers in mind!

### HIGH SCHOOL MOUNTAIN RETREAT

**November 17-19, 2023  
Cost \$160  
Grade: 9th - 12th**

The mountains are calling and so we must answer. All high school students are invited to join us for two nights and three days of growing in our faith through spiritual practices and intentional community. We travel to Black Mountain staying in the Blue Ridge Assembly where we will live family style for the weekend. From worship to afternoon hikes, workshops to an epic game night, this retreat is the idyllic fall getaway. We hope you'll join us for this third annual spiritual retreat.







## **MORE RETREATS AND BIG EVENTS**

### **THE LOCKOUT**

**January 12, 2024**

**Cost: \$78**

**Grade: 6th - 12th**

**Friends invited, but seats on the buses are limited**

All middle and high school youth are invited to register for this all-night extravaganza! We meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night to check-in before we load up on the charter buses and church vans for the most epic 12 hours of your year (thus far). This year's activities will be announced through the weekly email newsletter. Past trips have included bowling, laser tag, trampoline parks, roller skating and more! You don't want to miss this wild night!

It takes 20 to 25 adult chaperones to make this event happen, so if this sounds fun to you- please contact Genevieve or Bailey ASAP!

### **JOINT SPRING RETREAT**

**March 15 - 17, 2024**

**Cost: MS - \$165; HS - \$155**

**Grades: 6th - 12th**

This middle school retreat is led by WMPC high schoolers and is always a pinnacle event in our youth ministry. Every high schooler that registers is given a leadership role on this powerful and fun weekend at the coast. We'll hear testimonies from our high school seniors, experience small groups, enjoy camp activities like sailing and Gaga Ball, and some extra fun surprises planned by the high school leadership team! You do not want to miss this amazing weekend.





## **EVEN MORE RETREATS AND BIG EVENTS**

### **CONFIRMATION WEEKEND RETREAT**

**March 9 - 10, 2024**

**Cost: Included in Confirmation fees  
8th graders and Confirmation  
Mentors**

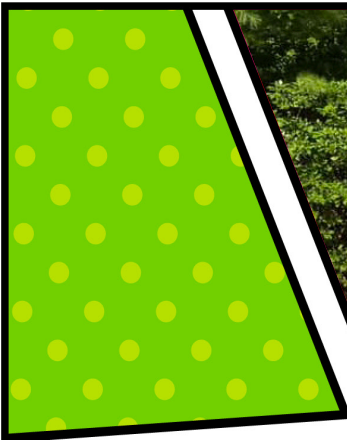
Each year our 8th grade confirmation class heads up to Lillington for a one-night overnight stay at Camp Willow Run. We stay in train cars that have been converted to comfy cabins as we get away to discern our faith statements and our confirmation journeys. This retreat is an integral part of the confirmation experience. If you are not able to attend this retreat, please contact Chip Pope at your earliest convenience.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY FINALE COOKOUT**

**April 28, 2024**

**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

All Youth families (including our 5th Grade families!!) are invited for this fun filled evening away to celebrate! Youth advisers will grill hotdogs and folks are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share! Middle school families are encouraged to bring a side dish while high school families are encouraged to bring a dessert. What to expect? Field games, fellowship, fun & much more! All are welcome!





## SUMMER TRIPS

### YOUTH CONFERENCES

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.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MASSANETTA SPRINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

**June 20-23, 2024**

**Cost: \$350, \$150 deposit  
Completed 6th - 8th grade**

This middle school conference is the perfect blend of faith-filled, hands-on experiences designed specifically for middle school youth. This conference is a chance to meet other young Presbyterians from across the country and foster a deeper understanding of the broader church. Massanetta's unique conference includes keynotes, music, recreation, workshops and small groups—led by high school, ministry-minded "Advocates".

*Note: Any registration after April 15, 2024, will incur a \$40 late fee.*

*Note: It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange transportation should their student attending Middle School Massanetta Springs Youth Conference, wish to also attend Montreat Worship & Music Conference*

#### MONTREAT WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCE

**June 23 - 29, 2024**

**Cost: \$550, \$150 deposit  
Completed 6th - 12th grade**

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) works in cooperation with the Montreat Conference Center to offer this amazing worship and music conference each summer. Guided by the principles of reformed worship, conferees explore opportunities for vital worship experiences and enriching the liturgical life of the local church. Organized and led by the WMPC Music Ministry Team, our church has a wonderful history of sending a group of adults and youth to this awesome conference!

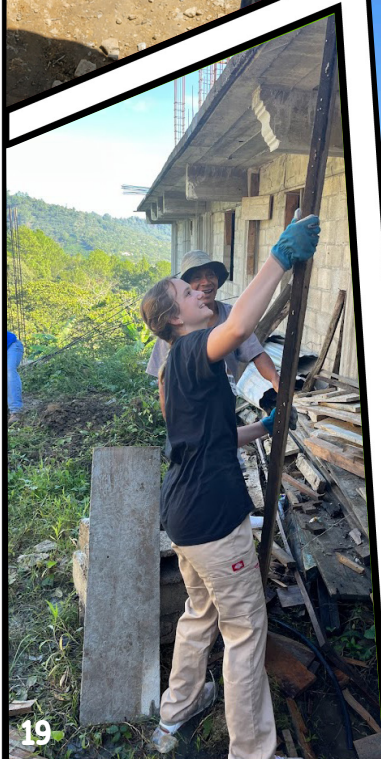
*This Conference is managed by the WMPC Music Department. Please contact Karl or Kelly.*

#### HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

**July 14 - 20, 2024**

**Cost: \$580 per person,  
\$150 deposit  
Completed 8th - 12th grade**

The Montreat Youth Conference is a gathering of high school students and their adult leaders from all over the country for an unforgettable week of growing in your faith. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote speakers, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities and evening worship. This Conference clears space for encountering God, discovering and deepening a vibrant and durable faith in Jesus Christ, and hearing an invitation to make a commitment to embody the love, justice and righteousness of Christ in our world.





## SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS

These unique trips offer opportunities to put our call to service into action. Through challenging and rewarding mission trips we will complete projects such as repairing and renovating homes for families in need, building mission and ministry facilities, leading children's Vacation Bible School programs, or working with our neighbors in need, both locally and internationally.

### ASP

#### APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

**June 16 - 22, 2024**

**Cost: \$400, \$150 deposit**

**Completed 9th - 12th grade**

Appalachia Service Project (ASP), has a long rich history with White Memorial! We've been sending mission teams for 30 years! This amazing mission trip provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation, bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

#### *Required Trip Meeting*

*Tool Training for every participant*

*10:00 a.m., June 15, 2024*

### CYM

#### CHARLESTON YOUTH MISSION

**July 28 - Aug 02, 2024**

**Cost: \$360; \$150 deposit**

**Completed 6th - 8th grade**

This urban outreach ministry is in community with Charleston Atlantic Presbytery headquarters and Youth Mission Co. Located in the Park City area of Charleston, Charleston Youth Mission immerses young people in one of the oldest cities of our nation. Participants will learn about the area's rich history as well as the current situation of the city. From slavery to today's racial-economic disparity, at CYM we will look at the common threads, serve our neighbors, and reflect on God's call for justice and equity for all.

#### *Required Trip Meeting*

*For the student participating and one parent*

*12:15 p.m., May 19, 2024*





## **SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Putting our faith into action

### **VBS**

#### **(VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)**

**June 17 – June 21, 2024; 9:00 a.m.– noon**

**Cost: FREE**

**Completed 6th – 12th grade**

Middle and high school student volunteers are vital for a successful VBS! Volunteers can be assigned to individual groups or to help with Bible stories, worship, crafts, music, recreation, or refreshments.

This is a fun way to serve our children's ministry, build leadership skills and grow in faith with our White Memorial church family!

Coordinated by Children's Ministry.

2024 Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Eastman;  
[jeastman@whitememorial.org](mailto:jeastman@whitememorial.org)





## **REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SUMMER TRIPS**

### **FALL REGISTRATION PERIOD**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 TO OCTOBER 9, 2023**

- Only active participants or church members may register during the Fall Registration Period.
- This is not first-come, first-served. All who register online between these dates will have equal opportunity of securing a spot.
- Adults will be invited to participate as summer trip leaders during this period.
- The number of spots confirmed will be dependent upon the availability of registrations by the particular ministry site, transportation availability, and the size of the leadership team.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE MORE REGISTRANTS THAN AVAILABLE SPOTS ON A PARTICULAR TRIP?**

Preference will be given in the following order: has a family member serving in a leadership role on the trip, youth is in their last year of eligibility for a particular trip, those who are regularly active in the life of WMPC, and then all others. Within those groups, a random drawing will be utilized.

### **CONFIRMATION EMAILS WILL BE SENT MONDAY OCT. 16, 2023**

The registrant has until Friday, October 27, 2023 to submit payment and all appropriate paperwork. Failure to do so will result in loss of a spot and the registrant will have to re-register.

(Registration process continued on the next page)





## **REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SUMMER TRIPS - CONTINUED**

### **WINTER REGISTRATION PERIOD**

**JANUARY 9, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

- 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 period.
- Any youth, including guests and visitors, may register during the winter registration period.
- Order of preference will be the same as the Fall Registration Period.

### **CONFIRMATION EMAILS WILL BE SENT. FEB. 19, 2024**

Exceptions to Fall and Winter Registration Periods: Montreat Worship & Music, and VBS will not follow this process.

### **OPEN REGISTRATION PERIOD**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2024 UNTIL ALL SPOTS ARE FILLED**

Beginning Feb 28, 2024

## **FINANCIAL AID**

### **THE BOB AMES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Robert G. Ames Youth Ministry Fund provides financial assistance to youth active in the church's ministry for mission trips, conferences, retreats and other church sponsored events. The fund was established in 1996 by the estate of Bob Ames, a former director of Youth Ministry, to benefit the youth ministry of White Memorial Presbyterian Church.

One goal of the scholarship supported by this fund is to ensure that no youth is unable to participant in any church function due to financial considerations.

The Bob Ames Scholarship Application can be found on the White Memorial Youth Ministry Forms website. All request to access the fund should be sent to Chip Pope at [cpope@whitememorial.org](mailto:cpope@whitememorial.org).

*Beloved*

*Perfect*

*Extraordinary*

*HUMAN*

*Loved*

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS  
**WHO DO YOU  
SAY I AM?**

*GROWING*

*Chosen*

*Child of God*

**WHITE MEMORIAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH