

IT IS WELL



WMPC
YOUTH

2025-26 WMPC YOUTH MINISTRY PLANNING GUIDE





2025-26 YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR



September

Fall Kick Off
Confirmation Kick Off
Confirmation Day Retreat
High School Beach Retreat

October

High School Campfire Theology Kickoff
Middle School Small Group Kickoff
Middle School CROSS Mission Retreat

November

Family Challenge
Coffee and Conversation: Advent

December

JoyGift Worship Service and Reception
Youth Group Christmas Party

January

Lockout

February

Youth Sunday
Coffee and Conversation: Lent
Youth Fundraising Dinner

March

Confirmation Retreat
Joint Spring Retreat

April

Youth Ministry Finale
Confirmation Sunday

June

High School Appalachia
Service Project
Middle School Massanetta
Youth Conference

July

High School Montreat
Youth Conference

August

Middle School Mission Trip
to Charleston



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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.



Genevieve Brooks



Bailey Morton



Paige Hokunson



Kaitlyn Thornton

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

9:30-10:30 a.m.

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 a.m. The Gathering in The Hub
All 6th - 12th graders meet together before classes begin.

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



Confirmation Class

9:30-10:30 a.m.

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.

Confirmation Sunday: April 26, 2026



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

5-6:30 p.m. Youth Group Program

6:30-7:00 p.m. Sabbath Stations and Open Gym

Our Sunday Night Youth Group program is for both middle and high school students. We begin with dinner, \$7 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!

All Sunday night programs run from 5:00–6:30 p.m.! But wait, there's more! On **Youth Group nights**, we're excited to offer Open Gym and Sabbath Stations from 6:30–7:00 p.m. This is intentional time to unwind, connect, and recharge after the program.

High School Campfire Theology

5-6:30 p.m.

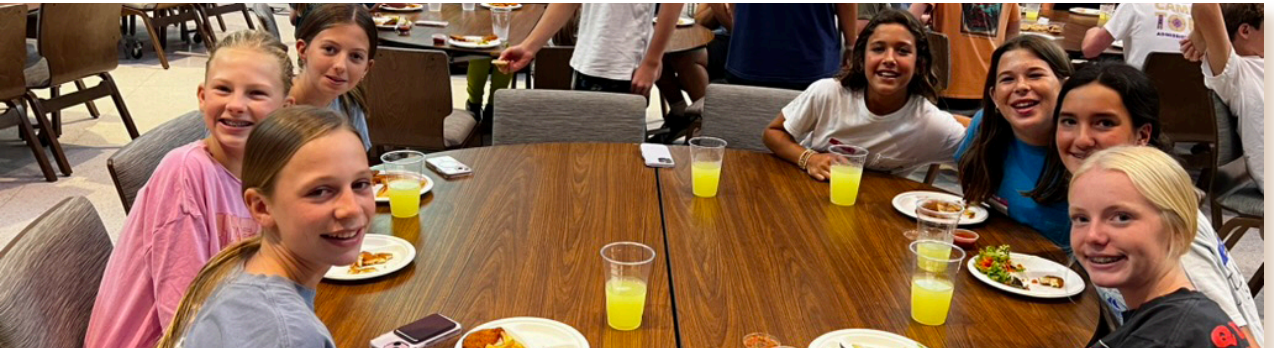
Grab your camping chair and blanket and join us in the Dover parking lot for a laid back and casual evening around the campfire. From life application to current events, we discuss the intersection of our faith and our lives. The chill atmosphere makes this an easy event for high schoolers to show up as they are. A pizza dinner is served for \$7.



Middle School Small Groups

5-6:30 p.m.

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 (\$7) at each small group gathering- so don't forget to invite your friends!



Coffee and Conversation

5-6:30 p.m.

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

(HLT) is a team of 9th-12th graders who meet weekly on Zoom to plan youth group, youth retreats, learn leadership skills and help facilitate other youth events. Our HLT focuses on leadership development in the areas of public speaking, writing prayers and 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 being small group leaders for the middle school youth of White Memorial. This team applies in the fall and then meets weekly.

Youth Choir

6:45-8:00 p.m. | Sundays

Youth (6th - 12th grade) learn music concepts and vocal technique and have an opportunity for faith formation and fellowship. Youth Choir regularly serves as worship leaders in both the Sanctuary and OnPoint services throughout the year. For more information, contact Kelly Gold, kgold@whitememorial.org.

Adult Youth Advisors

Adult leaders are the backbone of any healthy youth ministry. Being a youth advisor 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 Advisors are equipped by the youth staff through fall training and weekly meetings. All of our youth advisors 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.



Youth Worship Band

5:00- 5:45 p.m. | Wednesdays

The Youth Worship Band is open to all instrumentalists and singers in 6th - 12th grade. We lead music for Sunday night Youth Group and for Sunday morning worship (once a semester). For more information, contact Eric Nanz, enanz@whitememorial.org.

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!



Middle School CROSS Mission Retreat

October 11-12, 2025

Cost: \$165

Grade: 6th–8th

Middle Schoolers are invited to join us for a mission focused Fall Retreat! We'll depart from Raleigh on Saturday and head to Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte where we'll participate in their CROSS Weekend Service Program. We'll spend Saturday serving with local mission partners, introducing middle schoolers to mission trips. Then on Sunday, we'll go to Great Wolf Lodge for an afternoon at their indoor water park! It will be a blast!

High School Beach Retreat

September 27-September 28, 2025

Cost: \$165

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.





The Lockout

January 16-17, 2026

Cost: \$98

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 Bailey or Paige ASAP!



Joint Spring Retreat

March 20-22, 2026

Cost: \$185

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.

Confirmation Weekend Retreat

March 14-15, 2026

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 Genevieve Brooks at your earliest convenience.



Youth Ministry Finale Cookout

April 26, 2026

All Youth families are invited for this fun filled evening away to celebrate! Youth advisors will grill hot dogs 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

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.



Montreat Worship and Music Conference

June 21-27, 2026

Cost: \$300 registration fee

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 Kelly Gold, kgold@whitememorial.org.*

Middle School Massanetta Springs Youth Conference

June 18-21, 2026

Cost: \$530, \$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: *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*



High School Montreat Youth Conference

July 19-25, 2026

Cost: \$750 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 or working with our neighbors in need.

ASP: Appalachia Service Project

June 14-20, 2026

Cost: \$600 per person, \$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 35 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 Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

Required Trip Meeting

Tool Training for every participant | 10:00 a.m., June 13, 2026



Middle School Mission Trip to Charleston

August 2-7, 2026

Cost: \$400 per person; \$150 deposit

Completed 6th–8th grade

We are planning a week-long middle school mission trip to Charleston summer of 2026 - and we need your help to make it happen!

Join us for an incredible service opportunity with Charleston Youth Mission in the Atlantic Charleston area! Projects will include both hands-on work—such as cleaning, landscaping, and sorting donations—and relational ministry, like leading activities for children in subsidized housing or welcoming guests at local homeless ministries.

This will be our third partnership with Charleston Youth Mission, and we're excited to return for another meaningful week together.

Registration opens this fall, but we're recruiting chaperones now. If you can join us, please contact Paige Hokunson (phokunson@whitememorial.org).

Chaperone commitments are needed by November 1; trip updates will be shared by November 15.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Dinner at WMPC! February 22, 2026

Fundraising plays a vital role in our ministry. It fuels meaningful service work, creates faith-filled memories, and helps make all of our trips more accessible for everyone.

Every dollar raised supports our retreats, mission trips, conferences, and large events. We hope every student who participates in these trips will join in our fundraising efforts.

We're excited to announce our Fundraiser Dinner at the church on Sunday, February 22! Mark your calendars and help us make an impact.



REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR SUMMER TRIPS

Fall Registration Period

September 8, 2025 - October 7, 2025

- 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, October 20, 2025

The registrant has until Monday, October 20, 2025 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, CONT'D

Winter Registration Period

January 12, 2026 - February 16, 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 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.

Open Registration Period

February 23, 2026 until all spots are filled



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 Genevieve Broks at gbrooks@whitememorial.org.



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