

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

2017-18 Youth Ministry

Guide for Families with Youth

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

Hello, hello, Families with Youth!

What a joy it is to partner with your family in ministry here at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! Seriously, I absolutely am blown away by the amazing families who participate in this particular manifestation of the Body of Christ.

The following information in this Guide for Families with Youth is intended to help integrate you into our network of ministry with youth and to youth. We have opportunities for youth specific programming which include discipleship, worship, and leadership....and we also have intergenerational opportunities for discipleship, worship, and leadership. But no matter where you all choose to invest your time here at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church as a family with youth, the most important thing we want you to know is:

You are a beloved child of God, and you belong. You belong. You belong.

The most important function I hope to consistently fill as one of your pastors is to help you figure out how to experience that belonging in our youth ministry and in our wider church body. May this Guide be a resource to you all in this endeavor!

Please always know, I have an OPEN DOOR POLICY, which is to say I want to hear from you! Whether it is by meeting you for coffee, a phone call, an email, or seeing you when I'm in my office, I am here to support you, to pray with you, and to be a resource for you. Never hesitate to reach out with any questions, feedback, thoughts, or dreams. I look forward to an awesome year!!

*Peace and grace to you,
Rev. Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl*
(*TID-well WINE- zurl)*



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CELL: 678-977-3324*

*“Typical” Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:30am-5:30pm
Find me on Facebook: Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl*

Purpose

The Mission Statement

“The goal of youth ministry at SMPC is to lead middle and high school aged youth to embrace their identity as children of God, to establish and strengthen their relationship with God and the Church, and to equip and challenge them to live as disciples of Christ.”

The Leadership Youth Council

Our amazing youth council meets monthly to plan and coordinate our awesome youth programming opportunities. These are our behind-the-scenes, on-the-scenes, getting-ahead-of-the-scenes people!!

Don Dracon, Chair
Robyn Fant
Lisa Gilleland
Gary Haines
Denise Wilcox
Meg Hollingsworth

Kelli Knoble
Craig Parrish
Tamara Morrissey
Harrison Case
Doug Dracon
Katie Cushman, Elder

Communication: How do I stay up to date?

MOST IMPORTANT: Read the Weekly!

Everything you need is always in the weekly that you can get in worship on Sundays OR that you can find under “Publications” on our website, www.smpchome.org

Sign up for the SMPC weekly email (sent on Thursdays)!

We communicate ALL church events, including youth programming, here. As a large church, we streamline our communication so the whole family can find all they need to know in the SAME email!

Text Reminders!

Follow the instructions on the right to get weekly text reminders about upcoming events!



Sundays at SMPC

Worship Services

8:10am in the Chapel, 9:10am in the Sanctuary, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Sunday School: 9am

The Details

6th Grade

What's our curriculum?

Sparkhouse Connect

Where? The Cottage

Teachers: Cristy Powell, Jennifer Hurlburt, Peggy Conerly, Kelly Cushman



7th Grade

What's our curriculum?

Sparkhouse Echo the Story

Where? The Cottage

Teachers: Leanne Royster, Adrian Soderlund, Peggy Conerly, Amy and Michael Matthews, Kim Cashion



8th Grade/Confirmation

What's our curriculum?

Confirm, not Conform

Where? Room 202, near the church offices

Teachers: Mary Katheryne Zagora, Don Dracon



CONFIRM
NOT CONFORM

High School

What's our curriculum? The Wired Word *or* rotating studies!

Where? The Cottage



Teachers: Daniel Webb, Amy and Michael Matthews, Bob Cushman, Evan Tidwell-Weinzierl

SMPC Youth Ministry Programming

Four Pillars of SMPC Youth Programming

We design our Youth Calendar (provided in addition to the Guide) around four principle areas:

- 1) Worship and Mission
- 2) Family
- 3) Small Groups
- 4) Fellowship

While we have something different every Sunday, we do have some regular “types” of gatherings! These include events such as...



What is a small group dinner? We ask families to “host” each grade in “small group” formats for dinner—in their homes, at restaurants, wherever! A week out, you receive an evite for a chance to hang out with friends in the same grade!



What is a Big Youth Group? All youth, all ages gather at SMPC in Mecklenburg Hall for student planned + student led music, games, worship, and food before breaking out into small groups.

Annual Youth Retreats



Youth Leadership Opportunities

Worship

Greeter. Welcome people as they come into SMPC to worship with us! It really makes a world of difference when people feel welcomed as they walk in.
Contact: Mary Elledge, ddeaconlaw2001@gmail.com

Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication. Children and students are invited to lead the congregation in the call to worship on the first Sunday of the month and the prayer of dedication on the second Sunday of the month. If you enjoy leading in worship from the pulpit, this is for you!
Contact: Kathy Graham, kathyspeech@carolina.rr.com



Ushering—Spoon it Up. On the last Sunday of the month, children and students are invited to help collect a special offering that benefits the Charlotte Men's Shelter. This is a chance to help lead in worship without the public speaking!
Contact: Bob Cushman, rtcushman@yahoo.com

Big Youth Group

Contact: Robyn Fant, robyncaruthers@hotmail.com

Want to help plan the videos, the games, the energizers, and the music for our Big Youth Group gathering? Come join us! We love a variety of voices, ideas, and people!

30 Hour Famine

Contact: Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl, Jessica@smpchome.org

If you're passionate about mission work, this is an opportunity to explore: how can we better understand hunger in the world? And how can we help solve the hunger crisis? Come help us plan a week-end of fasting, of learning, and of working together to feed ALL of God's children.

Youth Sunday

Contact: Jessica Tidwell-Weinzierl, Jessica@smpchome.org

Mark your calendars for February 25th, where we will need all hands on deck! This is the annual Sunday when YOUTH. RUN. EVERYTHING. Seriously! From the Bake Sale to ushering to worship leading, all of it is covered by youth leadership — and no matter your preference, we have a place to get you plugged in. Be sure to plan to join us on February 11th and February 18th to choose how you want to serve, to get trained, and to organize the amazing experience that is Youth Sunday!

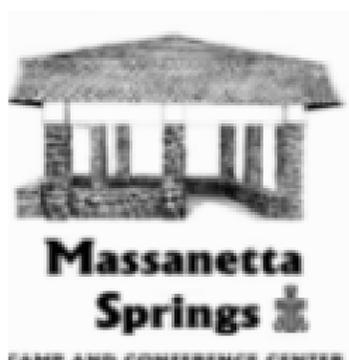
For Complete Youth Calendar...

Available on www.smpchome.org

- Click learn
- Click Youth
- Scroll to calendars

Summer Trips.

The deadlines come early—check them out now!



Middle School: Massanetta Springs

Dates: June 21 - 24, 2018

Registration Opens: September 11, 2017

Registration Closes: January 31, 2018

Deposit: A \$100 deposit is required to reserve your spot. This deposit is refundable until January 31, 2018. After January 31, 2018, this deposit becomes non-refundable.

Estimated final cost is \$350/student.



High School: Montreat Youth Conference

****NEW INFORMATION****

This year, we are making the move to stay ON CAMPUS at Montreat, which means we have to re-serve our spots much earlier than in years prior. There is still some flexibility, but please note that registration will open much earlier. Our final headcount might be a little less flexible than in years past for late sign ups!

Dates: July 15—July 21, 2018

Registration Opens: September 11, 2017

Registration Closes: December 31, 2018

Deposit: A \$100 deposit is required to reserve your spot. This deposit is refundable until December 31, 2017. After December 31, 2017, this deposit becomes non-refundable.

Estimated final cost is \$400/student.

NEW OPPORTUNITY: MISSION TRIPS

Wow! A lot of you have expressed interest in going on a youth mission trip. That's awesome! We want to provide opportunities for our students to serve with our brothers and sisters in Christ, in many contexts, as responsibly as we can.

We have been given two unique opportunities to partner with other churches in two mission trip opportunities in Summer 2018, so we are going to take advantage of these.

Middle School Mission Trip: Asheville Youth Mission

The Details: Unity Presbyterian in Fort Mill, SC has invited me to bring ONE adult and SIX middle school youth to join them in serving for a week through ASHEVILLE YOUTH MISSION. AYM is an awesome organization that partners youth groups with local service opportunities, and we work with them annually through our Confirmation Retreat.

Dates: July 8–13th, 2018

Registration Opens: October 1, 2017

Registration Closes: December 1, 2017

Cost: Estimated \$320/student

High School Mission Trip: TBD

The Details: There are few at this moment; but Unity Presbyterian in Fort Mill, SC, and Oakland Avenue Presbyterian in Rock Hill, SC, are partnering with us, SMPC, to put together a weeklong mission trip for our high school students.

This opportunity will provide lots of flexibility for how many students attend—so please be on the lookout for details to be released!!

LIFE SKILLS:

What does my student need to know how to do to go on a youth trip??

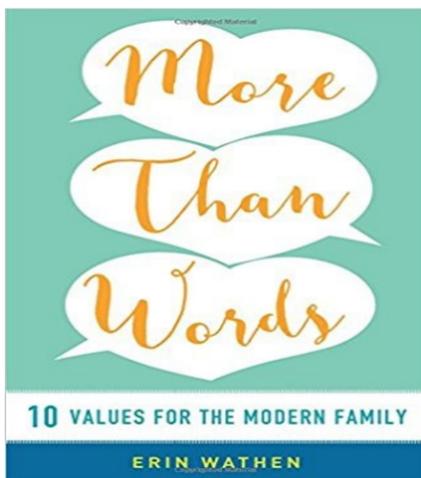
Youth trips are often a whole new experience for those who haven't been on one before! We have varying schedules, we are living in community together, and we SMPC folk strive to leave spaces we live in better than how we found them.

Well, of *course* no one is testing our students for certain skills before they join us on trips...they are ALL welcome and invited!! But when students aren't sure what is expected of them, that can create anxiety, which is no fun. Since we do have certain expectations for how students will contribute to community living on trips, we want to communicate those to you. Take a look at this list! Your student is probably already mostly prepared, and if not, we can work together to prepare them for whatever trip they join. They're *always* a blast!

- Following directions
- Managing a personal schedule (provided by camps!)
- Picking up one's mess after eating, playing, etc
- Keeping track of one's own belongings
- Keeping track of one's own money
- Using sunscreen! And bug spray!
- Making a bed (putting on sheets, folding bedding)
- Packing one's suitcase
- Packing group supplies
- Unpacking group supplies
- Cleaning common spaces: vacuuming, dusting, disinfecting
- Washing dishes
- Taking out trash

To Our Parents/Guardians: Opportunities for You!

Modern Family Values



Hey! Parenting is hard! But everything is a little easier when we carry our loads as a community, and that is what our “Modern Family Values” class does. Parents of children/youth can join this class on Sunday mornings at 9am to talk about what it means to parent and to faith and to family together.

They’re starting off this fall reading *More Than Words* by Erin Wathen.

Contact: Drew McCoy, macmomma93@gmail.com

Trivia: Adults in Youth Ministry!

Did you know...

Students who remain active in the church past 16 years of age are statistically *more likely* to be able to name at least FIVE adults who consistently invested in their faith journey?

Did you know...

The *most successful* youth ministries have a ratio of ONE adult involved in the youth ministry to every FIVE students involved?

In Exodus 3, God comes before Moses in the form of a burning bush to invite Moses into what feels like an impossible journey.

If you’ve been looking for a burning bush moment, here it is! In Christ’s resurrection, God has come before all of us, calling us into building up God’s kingdom. Youth ministry is one of those avenues that we are doing that! Youth are unique, with unique gifts, and they are called into kingdom work.

AND SO ARE YOU. As an adult, you are gifted and called by God into kingdom work — God invites you and I into the sacred space of sharing our gifts! Would you consider that perhaps one of those sacred spaces for you might be the wonderful world of youth ministry?

Gifts to Share

Recurring Opportunities

Behind the scenes...

Recruiters - to help recruit volunteers to run events

Planners - to help plan/coordinate single, particular events

Shoppers - to help purchase supplies for events

Readers - to help proofread mailouts, flyers, booklets, etc

Meal Gifters - to provide a bagged dinner/meal for overnight chaperones when they return from a trip as a “thank you!”

I want to be around people!

Chaperones - to join us for events, on short trips, or on long trips, helping keep track of students and participating with them in activities; relationship building with students

Transportation - to join us on long or short trips as a driver, helping keep track of students, participating with them in activities

BYG Small Group Leaders - to lead small group breakouts at Big Youth Group gatherings, using material provided ahead of time

Small Group Dinner Hosts - to host small groups for dinner (in one's home or at local restaurants)

Sunday School Teacher - to be trained to teach a specific grade of Sunday School and doing so

Prayer Partners - to pray for our students on a regular basis

I have a different gift...or I'm not sure where I can best share my gift!
That's just fine. Call Jessica, and talk about it!