



# 2023-24 Youth Ministry



# WELCOME TO YOUTH MINISTRY!

Youth Ministry at Westminster focuses on the youth of the church in helping them grow in their relationship with God and with each other. Our youth are led in many ways by adults who are visible examples of God's love. Youth are nurtured through faith formation, Westminster Youth Fellowship inc (WYFi), confirmation, worship, outreach activities, mission trips, Montreat conferences, play, and fellowship. These experiences offer our youth a chance to connect, to question, and to explore their faith. Spiritual practices and community help build a foundation for faith as youth begin to discover who God has created them to be and how to share their spiritual gifts with each other and the world.

Being intentional in practicing our faith and being connected to and engaged in a community of people of faith in God is both a means of encouragement, motivation, and protection that all believers need to have.

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for God who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10: 23-25*

In grace and with hope,



Lucy Jefferies  
Director of Children's &  
Youth Ministries



Sam Perkins  
Pastor for Formation,  
Missions & Connections



Our Youth Elders  
(l to r) Stephanie Keane, Bryan Bowers,  
Hayden Creech, & Jim Wilkie  
(Garrett Caldwell not pictured)



## (WESTMINSTER YOUTH FELLOWSHIP INC)

Our WYFi Youth group is an opportunity to build intentional community with each other, pray, learn and grapple with questions about faith and how God is present in our lives.

### *How do I join?*

The beauty of all youth programming at Westminster is that all you must do is show up. There is not a team to “try out” for or make, no membership required, and it is open to all.

### *What happens on Sunday evenings?*

We meet most Sunday evenings during the school year from 5:30 – 7:30. We start the evening with games and team building exercises which is followed by dinner. The evening is finished out by learning Biblical practices of how to live out our faith using the PCSUA curriculum, Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.

### *So, all this happens EVERY Sunday night?*

Almost!

On the first Sunday of each month we have partnered with eight other Presbyterian churches in the area and have formed a group called Youth Collective (YOCO for short). YOCO is about bringing youth together to grow deeper roots of faith and community.

On the first Sunday of every month we will gather at a different church location (locations and addresses will be in Westminster’s weekly E=- for games, a meal, and a short worship time together. The churches participating in YOCO are: Alamance Presbyterian, Community in Christ Presbyterian, Fellowship Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Guilford Park Presbyterian, Jamestown Presbyterian, St. James Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian.

Westminster will host YOCO, Oct., 1, 2023 from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

# CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a season of searching and discovery for 9th graders to deepen their journey of faith. This year is designed to challenge our youth to think theologically and to ask deep questions about the Bible and their faith. We want youth to claim their faith as their own and encourage them to think about what they believe and why they believe it. We want them to come away from this experience with the desire to continue digging into what it means to be a child of God and how that effects our lives and the lives of those we are in community, as well as, what it means to live out our faith outside the wall of the church.

## *Key Dates for Confirmation:*

*Sept. 23-24*

*Nov. 26*

*Jan. 19-21, 2024*

*Feb. 25, 2024*

*Confirmation retreat at Camp Carefree*

*Serve at Weaver House*

*CROSS Mission Trip*

*Confirmation Sunday*



# FAITH FORMATION

All youth grades 6th—12th gather in room 100 on Sunday mornings from 10—10:50am for refreshments and announcements and will then be dismissed to their respective rooms. Middle school youth will go to room 104, high school youth will go to room 102, and our confirmation class will stay in room 100.

Our format for Sunday mornings is laid back and designed to be easy for our youth to engage. We touch base using what we call Joy, Junk, and Jesus. This encourages youth to share a joy, something good that happened during the previous week, a junk, something not so great, and a Jesus moment, a point where they saw Jesus at work in the world. We then use d365 which is a daily devotion written for youth. The devotion follows a five-step format — *Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go*.

The *Pause* step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool.

The *Listen* step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation.

The *Think* step is the devotional thought by the week's writer.

The *Pray* step is the start of a prayer that can be expand into our own conversation with God.

The *Go* step is a call to action

The devotions are written by ministers, professors, students, teachers, missionaries, denominational leaders, and others who work with and care for students. Typically, an author writes on a single theme for one week. In these devotions, we read about honest struggles and questions, all in the context of real faith. As we read the thoughts of the writers, we discuss our own responses to the scripture for the day. We let the writer's words serve as background for our own conversation with God and each other.

# SUMMER TRIPS 2024

*(FOR RISING 7TH GRADERS-HIGH SCHOOL GRADS)*

Seniors Only (Place TBD)	June 22-28
High School New York City Mission	July 7-13
Middle School Montreat Conference (Maryville Tennessee at Maryville College)	July 17-21

Our high school graduates take a culminating trip together that is funded by our Youth Endowment fund. This is a time to reflect on our time in community together and to celebrate what's next in life for them.

Our middle school and high school youth rotate between mission trips and conferences each summer. This year, 2024, our high school youth will have the opportunity to serve on a mission trip to NYC and the middle school youth will have the opportunity to attend the Montreat youth conference in Maryville, TN.

Next summer, 2025, our middle school youth will serve on a mission trip to CROSS Mission in Charlotte, NC and the high school youth will attend the Montreat High School Conference in Black Mountain. These trips alternate each year until they graduate.

The Montreat youth conferences affirm our youth in their calling to not only be the church of today but the church of tomorrow. Through daily worship, keynote, recreation, and small groups, Montreat conferences help youth explore their spiritual, intentional relationship with God, themselves, and other youth

Westminster's youth mission trips are to encourage our youth to step outside of themselves, to serve others, and open ourselves to the needs of others in our world. Each of our trips is designed to serve at 2 different volunteer sights each day and to experience being the hands and feet of Christ. At the end of each day we debrief and have a time to be together in Christian community and have a little fun.

# OUTREACH & SERVICE

Opportunities for outreach will be dispersed throughout the year.  
Check Westminster's Weekly E-News for dates and times.

We will engage with:

Backpack Beginnings

Peacehaven Community Farm

Church Under the Bridge

Weaver House

Out of the Garden

The Urban Teaching Farm

Souper Bowl of Caring

Vacation Bible School



*\*Faith formation every Sunday from 10-10:50am unless otherwise indicated.*

# 2023-24 CALENDAR

*Find the latest dates, times and locations @westpreschurch.org/youth.*

## September

10th	5:30-7:30pm	Youth KICKOFF
24th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
23-24	9am Sat.-11am Sun.	Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Carefree

## October

1st	5:30-7:30pm	WPC Hosts YOCO Youth Collective
8th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
15th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
22nd	10-10:50am 5:30-7:30pm	Youth-led worship, both services WYFi Youth Fellowship
29th	5:30-6:30pm	Trunk or Treat

## November

5th	10-10:50am 5:30-7:30pm	Youth Faith Formation YOCO Youth Collective
12th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
19th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
26th	6-8am 4-5:30pm	Outreach @ Weaver House Advent Wreath Workshop

## December

3rd	5:30-7:30pm	YOCO Youth Collective
10th	12th 5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
17th	5:30-7:30pm	White Elephant Party
24-31		Christmas Break! No Youth Programming!

## January

7th	5:30-7:30pm	YOCO Youth Collective
14th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
19-21		Confirmation Trip to CROSS Mission
21st	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
28th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship



# 2023-24 CALENDAR

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## February

3rd	All day!	High school ski trip
4th	5:30-7:30pm	YOCO Youth Collective
10th	9am-12pm	Outreach: Souper Bowl of Caring
11th		No WYFi!
18th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
25th	9am & 11am	Confirmation class confirmed, both services
	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship

## March

3rd	5:30-7:30pm	YOCO Youth Collective
10th	6-8am	Outreach @ Weaver House
	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
17th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
24-31		Easter Break! No Youth Programming!

## April

7th	5:30-7:30pm	YOCO Youth Collective
14th	TBD	Program on Sexuality
21st	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship
28th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi Youth Fellowship

## May

5th	5:30-7:30pm	WYFi End-of-Year Celebration
12th		Mother's Day! No WYFi!
19th	12-1:30pm	Low Country Boil for Seniors & Families
28th		Memorial Day! No Youth Programming!

## June

22-28		Senior Graduate Trip
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## July

7-13		High School NYC Trip
17-21		Middle School Conference @ Montreat

## August

**NO YOUTH PROGRAMMING!**

# **YOUTH BAND**

## **@ WESTMINSTER**

Westminster Youth Band is open to students in 6th - 12th grade and includes singers, as well as guitar, bass, drums/percussion and keyboard/piano students who have some proficiency with their instrument. Do you sing or play an instrument and have a love for music? Then we want you in Youth band!



How do I join?

Contact Clint Whitlow with any questions:

([clint.whitlow@westpreschurch.org](mailto:clint.whitlow@westpreschurch.org))  
OR (336-299-3785)

The band rehearses August through May every Sunday from 12:00 till 1:00 pm in the sanctuary and provides musical leadership for worship services throughout the year. Our music is upbeat and current, and we draw from many different musical genres including but not limited to Christian pop, rock, pop top 40 and contemporary Christian.

# Rock Camp

## @ WESTMINSTER



Rock Camp at Westminster provides an opportunity for youth in middle and high school to come together for a week to learn how to play and sing some of their favorite songs, and to perform those songs live on stage in a band with their peers. We offer instruction and guidance from professional instrumental and vocal instructors, and a final concert at the end of the week in an off-campus music performance venue. Rock Camp provides an opportunity for Westminster's young people, and other youth in the greater community to play music together!

### *Rock Camp Dates:*

June 24-28 from 5:30-9:00 PM

Dinner served June 24-27

Final Concert off-campus June 28

Registration begins April 2024 on the church website.



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