

THE YOUTH BEACON

Where God's love is sizzlin' and you're called by name



God's New Thing In the New Year

After a year and a half of serving in ministry alongside this faithful community, I have come to recognize some of the rhythms of youth ministry. There is a distinct feel to each season – the excitement in the end of summer and beginning of fall, that almost dragging feeling in mid-October, the relief of November retreats and break, and the joy of the Advent season. There is certainly an advantage to seeing annual events and circumstances for the second time.

What has been most surprising to me is the distinctiveness of this year compared to last year. Much of the structure is the same, yet God has brought new people, new ideas, and new life into routine. New opportunities to experience Christ in relationship with one another, through mission and fellowship, have opened us up to God's glory.

I think that's what this ministry is all about. It is our hope that through our time together we are individually and collectively led into the presence of God our creator. Last year for Youth Sunday our scripture focus was from the prophet Isaiah who shares God's message, "***I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?***" (43:19).

How are we preparing ourselves to be active and perceptive to God's new thing in this new year? I love that the God we worship moves in the unexpected places of life. It makes every time we gather an opportunity to be surprised in beautiful ways! Whether in confirmation, java and Jesus, or WAF small groups, I am grateful to be in relationship with these youth and you their families. I am grateful for the ways God has already done a new thing and look forward with anticipation to the new things on the horizon in 2024!

Peace,
Rev. JD DeBevoise
Associate Pastor of Youth

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

Sunday School
10 AM - 10:45 AM

Java & Jesus (HS only)
7 AM - 7:45 AM
*Eastside Chick-fil-A
Boiling Springs (JD will text)*

WAF
5 PM - 6 PM (Dinner)
6 - 7 PM (Small Groups)

Sunday Night Youth
(beginning January 21)
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (MS)
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM (HS)

Confirmation 2024

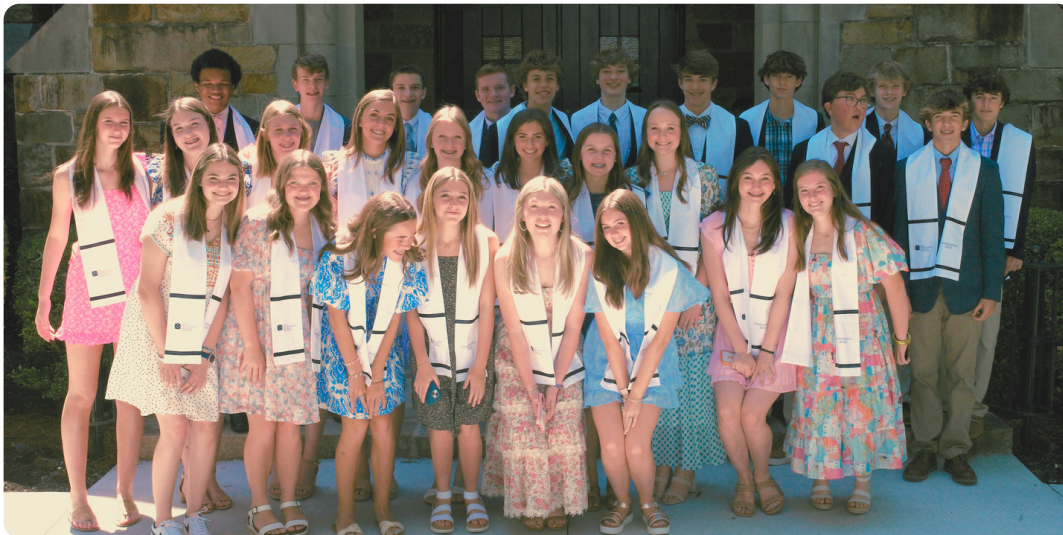


January 12th our ninth graders will begin their journey through Confirmation. The opening retreat, being held this year at Montreat Conference Center, is a time to grow closer to one another and begin focusing on our faith journeys.

Throughout the coming months, the confirmands will engage with pastors, mentors, and one another on what it means to have our lives themselves be acts of worship. Why do we worship? Where and how does worship inform our faith?

Led by Pastor John Daniel, Pastor Craig, and Pastor Leslie, the different confirmation class sessions will center around the Reformed Order of Worship, which we use at FPC Spartanburg.

Through this focus, confirmands will be given a new perspective on, and have the way they experience worship transformed - so that they might begin to see how their everyday lives can be acts of worship for God!



2023 Confirmation Class



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The confirmation process was a great experience for me because I enjoyed learning more about my faith, alongside my friends. Taking this step has helped me think about God in my everyday life, whether it be in school, sports, or other things. It also made me more appreciative of God's creation, and how lucky we all are to be made in His image.

”

Saffy Evans, 2023 Confirmand
10th Grader at Spartanburg High School

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings in Youth
Game Room

10 AM - 11 AM

- January 21st
- January 28th
- February 4th*
- February 25th
- March 3rd
- March 10th

Closing Retreat

- April 12th & 13th*

Meet with Session*

- April 14th

Confirmation Sunday*

- April 21st

*indicates mentors present

CONFIRMATION PODCAST

Accompanying the Confirmation sessions is a conversational podcast between FPC pastors. It's a great way for confirmands to review the material through a unique context. The podcast also offers a way for mentors, parents, and FPC Congregants to walk alongside this confirmation class as they journey through this meaningful season. Use QR code below to access the episodes.

SCAN ME



Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities

Thursday Night Meal Ministry

(Youth serve 1st Thursday)

January 4th

February 1st

WAF Dishwashers

(sign up on church website to volunteer)

WAF Children's Program Volunteers

Have ideas for mission projects? Let JD, Grace, or Carrie know!



THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE
LORD SAYING, "WHOM SHALL I
SEND? WHO WILL GO FOR US?"
"HERE I AM," I SAID; "SEND ME!"
ISAIAH 6:8



On The Horizon

Links to registration for trips here

Next Month:

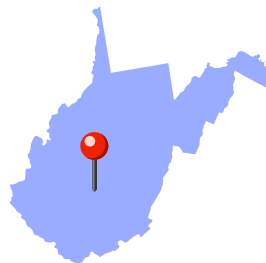
Youth Sunday

February 11th



Ski Trip (Winterplace, WV)

February 16th-18th



Summer Trips:

High School Mission Trip (Cedarkirk)

June 9th-15th

Middle School Mission Week

July 8th-11th

Montreat Youth Conference

July 20th-27th

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Meal Ministry @ FPC 4-6 PM 	High School Presbytery Retreat @ Montreat 	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
High School Presbytery Retreat @ Montreat			WAF (Health Series)		Confirmation Retreat @ Montreat	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Confirmation Retreat @ Montreat		Java & Jesus  7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick- fil-A)	WAF (Health Series)			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Confirmation Class 10-11AM Youth Group 5:30-7:45PM		Java & Jesus  7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick- fil-A)	WAF (Health Series)			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Confirmation Class 10-11AM Youth Group 5:30-7:45PM		Java & Jesus  7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick- fil-A) Boiling Springs (Chick-fil-A)	WAF (Congregational Meeting)	Meal Ministry @ FPC 4-6 PM 	Middle School Girls bible study (starbucks)	

Coming Soon 

Important February dates:

Boy Scout Sunday (Troop 2's 100th Year Anniversary), February 4th
 Youth Sunday, February 11th
 Ski Trip, February 16th-18th

2023 Year In Review

