

Youth!

MINISTRY GUIDEBOOK

2023-2024



SERVE

GROW

WORSHIP



AMAZING YOUTH AND FAMILIES

What an extraordinary time to serve in ministry together. This group of young people are growing in love of God, themselves, and community in ways that inspire. Our ministry this year is guided by the theme of **Faith Family**- bonded together by our baptismal covenant. As **Faith Family** we are connected to God and to one another in a relationships of mutuality and care as a church. We will live into this theme in our study, worship, fellowship, and service as we deepen our relationships and discern how we are called to receive the blessing of our connectedness and serve to help others know this gift too.

Our young people are hungry for connection and release from the great pressures in their world. As a youth ministry we trust in the Spirit's leading for us to grow in our love of God and one another. May this new year ahead bring us creativity, resilience, service, and most of all love.

Courtney Stevens
Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry
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Get Connected

Youth News Weekly Emails

One, weekly comprehensive email of all things Youth Ministry at Highland. See pictures, reminders, and weekly information all in one place. Email Courtney at cstevens@highlandpres.org to be added to the list.

Google Calendar

Scan the QR code to add our youth ministry calendar to your electronic calendar. Use it to find information and see live updates to changes and activities.



@HighlandPYC Instagram

Follow along with our photosteam and see all the fun.



Sunday School



Youth Breakfast 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Space

Our faith family takes turns providing breakfast to fuel our mornings. Sign up for a slot to share!



Middle School Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m. in AB3 led by Courtney Stevens

We're walking through the themes of the Old Testament. Bring your Bible!



Senior High Sunday School 10:00-10:45 a.m. in AB4 led by Chris Gottfried

Senior highs dig in deep with teacher Chris to consider together how to understand the world around us alongside our faith. This discussion heavy class is about exploration together and as individuals.



Intergenerational Class Coming in the Fall

A few of our youth have joined with members of the Christian Education committee to plan a creation care class that will begin in October! We'll pause our senior high class to join in!

Youth Fellowship

Our youth are clear- they do not want to miss out this year so we're planning a schedule with the hopes of being together in ways that help us grow, play, and build community. Sunday afternoons will continue to be the core time to gather.

1st Sunday Sabbath



2nd and 3rd Sundays Youth Fellowship

Middle School 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Senior High 4:45-6:00 p.m.

Core time to connect, engage in spiritual practice, and deep fellowship. Our families have also shared missing time for table fellowship so we're bringing food back as a heavy snack option with our two groups to overlap and maybe play a big game together!



4th Sunday

Youth Fellowship Lunch After Worship

Sharing Sunday mornings together for Sunday School, worship, and straight into table fellowship has been one of our favorite additions in the past few years. We'll have lunch brought in or pick a place nearby to head out to right after worship/

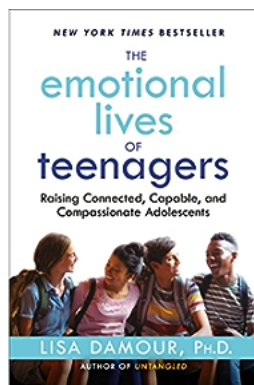


Reverse Book Club

Don't read the book! (Or do!) Parents are busy so we have designed a book club to fit your needs. Show up for one of these gatherings throughout the year for conversation on topics like technology, faith formation in the home, and raising resilient youth, and we will provide you will a book to mark up during our gathering and resource to read on your own time.

First read:

The Emotional Live of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents



Family Service Afternoon

November 19

12:30-4:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family to serve together as we work with Bed and a Book, a local program that seeks to provide all children in our area with a bed of their own. We will have a light lunch, learn from the organization's founder, and assemble 10 bed kits to be ready for delivery before Christmas!

Resources for Families

As the family of faith we walk together as partners in faith formation and supporting families.

Our Whole Lives: Faith and Sexuality Education Workshops

March 9-10

Save the weekend for a series of workshops offered for middle school youth, senior high youth, and parents. An outside facilitator using Our Whole Loves curriculum is coming to share with us a variety of age appropriate sessions for each group. Sessions will focus on themes like healthy relationships, communication and consent, and decision making. More information will be forthcoming.

Get On The Bus

RETREATS CONFERENCES AND TRIPS

Throughout the year our Youth Ministry sets aside time for rest, recreation and re-connection. Each trip or event is an opportunity to refocus our attention on God's work among us in order for our young people to be empowered to make their faith visible everyday.

Getting out of our every day routines and taking on the challenge of living into our faith in a covenanted community opens us up to be surprised by God at work in new ways. Everything we do- whether it is growing in faith in our education classes, playing hard at Youth Fellowship, traveling to conferences or serving our brothers and sisters in Christ near and far- is in response to the grace of God. We do what we do to grow stronger as the hands and feet of Christ.

Of these varied experiences, youth trips are powerful, immersive experiences that challenge what we know, how we live, and grow our relationships with God and one another.



Have Fun!

This year we have exciting trips and local service opportunities for our youth. Every year I am in awe of how the Spirit moves, transforms, and bonds each group more deeply to their faith and one another in powerful and surprising ways. I hope your family will consider participating in these opportunities.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Enabling youth to have these experiences is a priority of the Session and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Committee. All conference and service experiences already have scholarship built into the registration cost. Should you need financial assistance for a youth-related experience, please contact Courtney. We want to make sure all youth are able to participate in all events, no matter their financial situation.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

October 20-21

Register by October 8

Let's get away- just the Middlers! We'll have an overnight for some big fun. We're going to a lake cabin just outside of our area to connect together, play hard, and make some memories. We'll leave Friday afterschool and be back Saturday midafternoon.

SENIOR HIGH LOCK-OUT

December 15-16
7:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.
\$30

Register by December 1

Last year we locked-in, this year we lock-out! And celebrate with the return of broomball! Join us for an evening of adventure. We'll gather at the church, and then we're locking the door to go out into our city for a fun night. We will eventually return to the church after a midnight breakfast to play some games, worship, and watch movies until the sun rises!



MYSTERY MONDAY

February 19

\$30

Register by February 4

All youth are invited to a day of fun and surprise on President's Day. We will meet at Highland and head off into the unknown for an experience of challenge, fellowship, growth, and who knows what else! We know this kind of an experience is too unique and fun to only happen once a year (or more!) so let's go!



SENIOR HIGH MYSTERY TRIP

January 12-15

\$199

Register by December 1

The best weekend you don't know about! The January trip is always a highlight of the year as we grow as a group encountering new adventures and have space to deepen our relationships with one another. Pack your spirit of adventure and dive in!



SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

February 24-25

Register by February 4

We're looking towards Youth Sunday and think it sounds lovely to prepare for in community in the mountains! Let's head out and have some fun in study, worship, rest, and fellowship.



SENIOR HIGH MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

June 9-15

\$400

Register by December 1

Montreat Youth Conference clears space for encountering God, discovering and deepening a vibrant faith. This conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship.

MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

July 16-19

\$300

Register by December 1

This favorite conference offers faith-filled, hands-on experiences designed specifically for middle school youth with a week of keynotes, workshops, small groups, and recreation.

SENIOR HIGH SERVICE TRIP

June 22-28

\$200

Register by December 1

A weeklong service trip where we use our hands to help our neighbors in a new context and live in community with other youth from around the country. Form deep bonds and see our faith realized in action.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE WEEK

Date TBA

A week-long half-day camp of service as our Middlers learn and respond to needs of our neighbors. We serve onsite with agencies that are supported by Highland's community service ministries. .



