

Youth!

MINISTRY GUIDEBOOK
2026-2027



REST

TOGETHERNESS

SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCES



AMAZING YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Dear Youth and Families,

There is something holy about having a place where you can show up as you are.

That is what I hope our youth ministry can be: a place where young people are known, welcomed, challenged, cared for, and reminded that they belong—to God and to one another.

This year, we'll gather around tables, play ridiculous games, ask big questions, practice our faith, serve

our neighbors, travel, worship, and sometimes simply slow down and rest. Some moments will feel significant. Others may seem wonderfully ordinary. I trust God is at work in all of them.

My hope is not that our youth leave with every question answered, but that they know they have a community that will walk with them as they grow and that church can be a place of joy, honesty, belonging, and grace.



To our youth: this ministry belongs to you. Bring your questions, your ideas, your whole selves, and your friends.

To the adults who surround them: thank you for helping make this community possible. I am grateful we get to share the year ahead together.

Grace and peace,

Courtney Stevens

Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry



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 photostream and see all the fun.

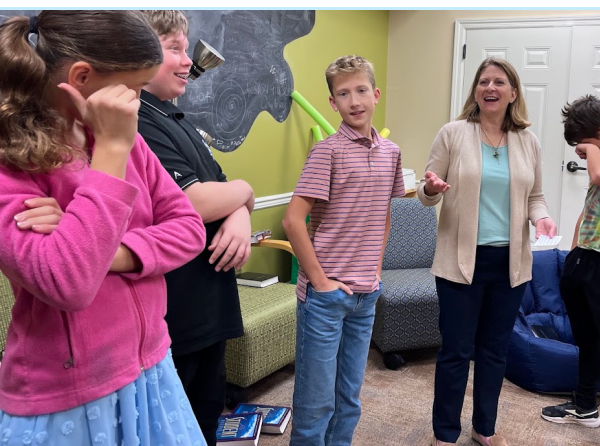


Sunday Mornings



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 Sunday to share!



Youth Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Middle School meets in AB3

with Glenn Otterbacher and Katina Barksdale as they journey through the New Testament.

Senior High meets in AB4

with Courtney Stevens exploring topics of practical faith within our lives and the world.

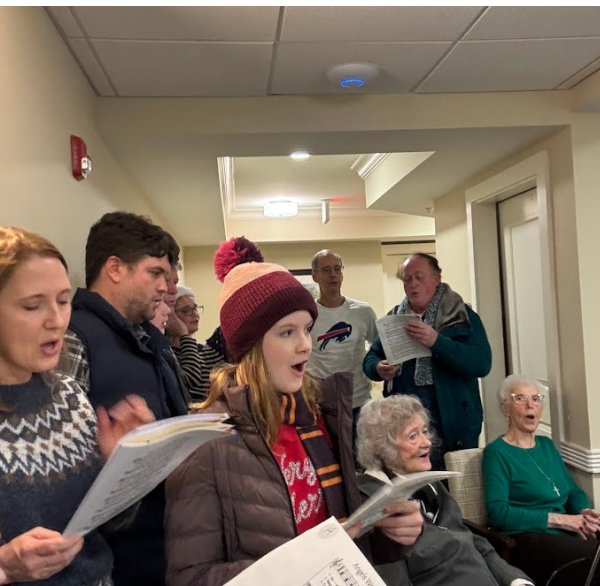


Youth Fellowship



Youth Fellowship Nights **Middle School 4:00-5:15 p.m.** **Senior High 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

This is our 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 on select nights bringing both our groups together for table fellowship.



Special Outings

Our calendar is sprinkled with events to share like a return to our favorite corn maze in October and the Agape Meal where youth bring their favorite foods to share. As one combined middle and high group we will enjoy these fellowship opportunities together.



Youth Fellowship Lunch **After Worship**

Some Sundays we will meet following 11:00 a.m. worship for a meal at a restaurant near the church. We'll share the location and drop off and pick up times.

Adventure Together

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.



SENIOR HIGH MYSTERY TRIP

January

\$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 BEACH RETREAT

November 13-15

Register by October 1

\$100

Youth asked and we're going! Senior High is heading to the Outer Banks for a weekend reset by the sea. We'll practice rest, share life in community, make space for faith and reflection, and enjoy plenty of beach time together. Come ready to slow down, laugh a lot, breathe deeply, and reconnect with God, with one another, and with yourself.



SENIOR HIGH MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

June 6-12

\$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.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE RETREAT

October 9-11

\$100

Register by October 1

Middle School is heading to Charlotte for a weekend of serving, learning, and growing together with Cross Missions! We'll step outside our usual routines, meet neighbors and community partners, lend a hand where it's needed, and reflect on what it means to put faith into action. Along the way, there will be plenty of fun, friendship, and time to discover how serving others can change the way we see the world and ourselves.



MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

July 13-16

\$300

Register by December 1

Middle School is heading to Massanetta Springs for a weekend of faith, friendship, and fun! We'll join youth from across the region for worship, small groups, games, music, and plenty of time to connect. It's a chance to grow in faith, build new friendships, and experience the joy of being part of a bigger church community.



