

# FAQ's First Pres Youth Style

## Cole how do we know what's going on? What if we need to reach you?

Thanks for asking!

1. You will hear from me weekly! I will send out an e-newsletter each week with what's going on, how to sign up for trips, etc. If this email is in your spam, please mark it otherwise, or I guess you may not hear from me.
2. If you need anything or need to talk to me, here are three ways to contact me! Probably in order of effectiveness in reaching me.
  - a. Email - [cseaman@firstpreswc.com](mailto:cseaman@firstpreswc.com)
  - b. Cell # - (717) 679-8608
  - c. Text Cell #

\*If you have an emergency pertaining to your son/daughter, please get a hold of me, I would love to help/be a resource in anyway possible!

## Who can attend Youth Ministry functions at First Pres?

Youth Ministry at FPC is for any and all students grades 6th-12th.

## What are the typical events they can participate in?

We have a few...

### Youth Group

1. Whenever our schedule says we have youth group, we meet upstairs in the youth room of the church (room 216) from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
2. We usually spend time playing a game or hanging out, followed by a large group lesson that leads into us breaking into small groups to talk about the topic or bible passage.

### Sunday Small Groups

3. With three worship styles, it's hard to have a distinct Sunday School time during one of the services since families may want to go to a specific style of worship. So we've moved Sunday Small Group to 10-10:35 am in order to still connect with students, but also stay out of families' way of worship!
4. This will be in Fellowship Hall by the stage. Ali, one of our interns, leads this. It's a time for coffee, catching up on each others' week, and focusing on the scripture for the particular Sunday. It is definitely more relaxed, but hopefully equally as effective.

## Middle School Bible Study

1. This is each week (following the Bridge schedule) from 6:15-7:30 pm. It happens at First Pres in the Senior High Youth Room.
2. It is a Bible study that focuses on the younger students in our ministry. They are going through many changes all at once and need time to be together, learning about who Jesus is, how to interact as a maturing teen, and giving each other space to share about their experiences. Mary Hambleton leads this small group, and phenomenally if I do say so myself!

## High School Bible Study

1. This also happens each week, but on Tuesday nights from 7:30-9 pm at Panera Bread on Route 3, just outside of the borough of West Chester.
2. Teens, especially high school aged love feeling like they are a part of this group! Generally we spend about 30 minutes eating and catching up, before jumping into scripture to talk about topics that are relevant for teens' lives. I, Cole, lead this Bible study.

## Are there any retreats/events that our students can be a part of?

Absolutely!

- **Breakaway Retreat!** Every year we take our middle school students to Breakaway at North Bay retreat center in Northeast, Maryland. It is always a hit! It is a good time for all the middle schoolers to bond with each other and leaders. We would love it if your son/daughter joined us!
  - The date of Breakaway is Oct 5-7th
- **Reality Retreat!** Every year we take High School students to Reality at Sandy Hill retreat center, in Northeast, Maryland. Your High Schooler
  - The date of Reality is Nov 2-4th
- **Winter re:Fresh!** Winter re:Fresh is held at Gretna Glen Camp in Lebanon, Pa. This is a combined Sr and Jr high retreat. One of our favorites because we get to see how students of all ages come together to fellowship and worship Christ! We also do this trip with our youth group only, it's a blast getting to know each other better!
  - The date of re:Fresh is Feb 15-17
- **The Great Escape!** Another favorite of our MS students! This is a week-long trip to the University of Pittsburgh- Johnstown campus. It is a week of crazy fun and amazing fellowship.
  - The dates of TGE are July 22-27.

## **That Sounds Great! How does Sign-ups and Payment work?**

1. Sign-ups this year are quite simple. I send out weekly email updates and in the ones leading up to a trip, I will link a google form to the email so that you can sign up for whatever trip you please.
2. Payment, at this time, is all done by cash or check. There usually is a deposit due for the trip whenever you sign up and then I will send out, in a weekly email, a reminder when the deadline for final payment is due.

## **This sounds great, is there any way to get trip costs discounted or lowered?**

Absolutely!

1. We hold four fundraisers throughout the year for the youth group. 2 donut and car magnet sales in the fall, a Spaghetti Supper in January, 1 Mother's Day Flower sale. IF your son/daughter helps us during any of these, their trip will be automatically discounted. Discounting is based off trip costs, but can usually be anywhere around \$50 dollars for a weekend retreat, or \$100 for a week-long trip.
2. The Youth Ministry has been greatly blessed by so many in the church who have donated and given money for students to be able to go on retreats and mission trips. If you should need financial assistance for any reason, don't hesitate to contact me, we WANT your son/daughter to come with us no matter what! Once we start up this year, there will also be a form on our website that you can fill out and place in my mailbox in order to request additional assistance.

## **Will my child be safe and be able to express and talk about whatever they need to while being a part of the Ministry?**

Absolutely!

1. ALL of our Staff, Interns, Volunteer youth leaders, and teachers have to clear three background checks, including the FBI fingerprint clearance. Per PA State Law.
2. They also have been trained in how to handle sexual abuse through a program called, "Stewards of Children Training" which is put on by the church once a quarter.
3. We have one main rule that we go over at youth group and that is that Church (FPCWC) is a safe place. It is a place to grow, learn, challenge, sharpen and experience our faith, God, and fellow believers in new and fresh ways. We talk about some heavy things that may not be easy to share about, they may also be very personal. It is our job a fellow believers, church members, and youth groupers to keep those things private. They don't leave the room, they are not ammunition to use on someone at school, but something that we can all

learn from. Leaders are advised that anything serious comes to me before talking to anyone else.

4. We, as church youth workers, are mandatory reporters of any child abuse. Leaders are reminded and coached as to what that means EVERY year. We would never want something like that to continue to damage your son/daughter once they share it with us. We take all necessary measures to ensure we take care of your students, support them, and get them the help they need should something like this come up.