

Grace Meridian Hill Fall Retreat October 26-28 Children and Youth Camp

Grace Meridian Hill is located in Washington DC. It is part of a PCA church with three congregations called Grace DC.

View our website here - <https://gracemeridianhill.org/>.

View our Facebook page here - <https://www.facebook.com/GraceMeridianHill/>.

Vision

Grace Meridian Hill exists for the holistic renewal of our neighborhood—called to love our neighbors, compelled by God’s transforming grace.

This story of the gospel (“good news”)—that Jesus, out of his own gracious initiative, lived, died, and rose to life to make all things new—empowers everything we are and do as a community. This includes our missional commitment to be a spiritually diverse community, walking with those who have questions and doubts about the Christian faith; a cross-cultural community, building honest, caring, and reciprocal friendships among neighbors of various racial and ethnic backgrounds; and a neighborhood-centered community, loving the people and place immediately around us and serving their needs, those of the poor and disenfranchised in particular.

On a practical level this means intentionally building deep mutual relationships with one another and with our neighbors. Often this requires a sacrifice of time, resources and emotional and physical energy – and the greater reward is mutual relationship and growing together towards Christ and a “gospel community”.

See our vision page here - <https://gracemeridianhill.org/about/vision/>.

Project Overview

Every year the church has a Fall Retreat to which we invite our visitors and members to come together for three days and two nights in a beautiful and relaxing environment in order to have fellowship and learn together about a certain topic. Families are encouraged to come and in the past childcare has been provided partially by paid childcare providers and partially by rotating volunteers out of the Retreat activities.

This year we want to have structured activities and lessons provided by a short term missions team throughout the Retreat so that the children can be engaged in a more structured and guided experience through play and bible learning, and so that parents and visitors can focus on learning and relaxing in community.

Last year we had a diverse group of approximately 25 young people including infants, toddlers, children from 4-8 years old and youth aged 9-20 years from our church and from our neighbors in the local community. Lessons and activities would need to incorporate different age groups and encompass a full day from 9am-12pm, 1pm-5:45pm and 7-9pm. The short term missions team would be invited to plan and structure their own lessons and activities, in collaboration with our Children's Ministry Director. They would be able to use the Retreat facilities which include some classrooms, outdoor spaces, basketball courts and a zip line.

Many families with children were unable to attend the Retreat last year because of the limited amount of supervision for children while adults are in the worship service. If we can provide camp activities for the children and youth, we anticipate that more families will be able to come, which will increase the number of anticipated children.

Location/ Living Arrangements

The Fall Retreat is held at the Capital Retreat Center in beautiful Pennsylvania on the border of Maryland.

Address: Capital Retreat Center, Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro, PA

Learn more about the Capital Retreat Center, where we have our retreat, here - <https://capitalretreat.org/activities-venues/>.

The short term missions team would be able to stay in Lodge Bet – which includes bunk-beds in several room so that rooms could be gender separate.

You can view the floor plan of Lodge Bet here - <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://capitalretreat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Lodge-Bet.pdf&hl=en>.

Meals

Meals would be included with lodging and provided through the Retreat Center. Meals would also be unstructured time for the short term missions team, so that children would eat with their families.

Group Dynamics

The short term missions team could consist of teens supervised by adults, college aged young-adults or adults interested in children's ministry. The group would have flexibility to create and design their own lessons and activities and collaborate with our Children's Ministry Director to decide on the best strategies for working with the children and youth.

Team Size

Due to the diversity of age in our youth we would ideally prefer a group of 15 or more:
7 infants – at least 3 supervisors, this could be supplemented by paid childcare workers
15 toddlers and 7 3-year-olds – at least 3 supervisors

23 Pre-K/K – at least 3 instructors

7 Elementary – at least 2 instructors

4 Middle School - 2 instructors, could combine with older youth or have separate activities

7 Youth and Young Adults aged 12-18+ years – at least 2 young adult/adult instructors, would collaborate with our church's youth mentors

Age

Because most of our children are in Kindergarten and Elementary school, much of the lessons and activities could be provided by high school youth supervised and assisted by adults to create and implement the programming. Our older youth would need to be led by adults or college-aged young adults, supervised by our Children's Ministry Director.

Schedule

Friday October 26

- Everyone arrives at the Retreat Center and checks in starting at 2:00pm. Often many people hang out and chat or play board games in the common area throughout the evening. Dinner is not provided, restaurants are nearby. There are no structured activities.

Saturday October 27

- Breakfast is from 8:00-9:00am
- Adults have Morning Worship and Discussion Groups from 9:00am to 12:00pm - children do crafts and learn bible lessons - older youth have guided bible study and activities
- Lunch is at 12:00pm
- Adults have free time from 1:00pm to 5:45pm and includes a zipline - structured games for children during this time, including the zipline for the older children
- Dinner is at 5:45pm
- Adults have Evening Worship and Discussion Groups from 7:00pm to 9:00pm - some of the youngest children are in bed by this time (parents are responsible for putting children to bed) - older children and youth have crafts, lessons, movies or games during this time
- Free time begins at 9:00pm and includes a campfire and smores - younger children usually go to bed at this time (parents are responsible) - older youth usually hang out by the fire, or play indoor or outdoor games

Sunday October 28

- Breakfast is from 8:00-9:00am
- Adults have Morning Worship and Discussion Groups from 9:00am to 12:00pm - children do crafts and learn bible lessons - older youth have guided bible study and activities
- Lunch is at 12:00pm
- Check out begins after lunch

Contact

Please reach out by emailing Joanna Giddens, our Community Life Coordinator, with interest or with questions. Or to communicate directly with our Children's Ministry Director, Amy Roebke. Email: joanna@gracemeridianhill.org, amy@gracemeridianhill.org.



Summer Bible Club 2017



Retreat 2016



Retreat 2017