

YOUTH PACKET

2018-2019



***Our Goal:** Prepare the Youth of Farmington to be good stewards and loving ambassadors to the world, to bring the peace and joy that is the Kingdom of God into our communities, and to accept and embrace the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.*

~

Farmington Presbyterian Christian Education

Contact: Douglas Barr

8245 Farmington Blvd, Germantown, TN 38139

Phone: (901)754-2794

e-mail: doug@farmingtonpres.org

Dear Parent:

We are so very excited that your child is taking part in the Christian Education programming at Farmington Presbyterian Church! Our desire is for our young people to have a comfortable, safe, and supportive environment based on Christian values and the love of Jesus Christ that moves us to action. Some of our youth are very active and attend every event, some can only commit to certain days, while others simply drop in when they can. We encourage your child to be as active and present as possible. Don't let a busy schedule deter you! There is also a common misconception that you need to be a Presbyterian—not so. We are a welcoming community of young seekers looking to connect to Christ in all aspects of our lives. As leaders, we strive to both plug into the lives of young people and plug them into our community. We seek to help each one grow spiritually and send them into the world to be Christ-centered leaders. We seek to involve all in fellowship, worship, ministry, mission, and discipleship.

This packet is designed to give you an understanding and overview of our programs for children and youth at Farmington Presbyterian Church. We have also included some safety guidelines and procedures as well. The best way to nurture faith development in youth is for all of us—teacher, parent, and participant—to work towards that same desired goal.

Please read this information thoroughly and return the contact information portion as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for giving us the gift of time with your student.

Grace and Peace,

-Douglas Barr-

Director of Christian Education
Farmington Presbyterian Church
(901) 606-6292
doug@farmingtonpres.org

EXPECTATIONS

When attending Farmington Youth activities (outings, retreats, lock-ins, etc) youth are representatives of Farmington Presbyterian Church and the youth group. Their behavior will reflect the respect which is due to their peers and leaders. We ask that all try their best to be respectful of people and property, have a good attitude, and abide by Farmington youth requirements.

RULES OF FARMINGTON PRES. YOUTH GROUP

1. Listening to group leaders is very important. I will pay attention and listen to directions and requests of the Farmington Pres. leaders. I trust that they are acting in my best interest.
2. I will not criticize others; just as I wouldn't want to be judged harshly, I will not do so to others.
3. I will be a ready and willing listener for my peers.
4. I will be open and honest in any discussions we might have.
5. I recognize my right to "pass" on sharing or discussions.
6. I will participate in activities.
7. I will notify one of my group leaders in the event that I feel in danger or discomfort in any situation.
8. Damage done to the property (either Farmington's or the facilities in which we might be visiting) is the responsibility of persons involved. If damage happens, it needs to be reported ASAP. If cost is incurred, your parent/guardian will be notified and you or your family will be financially responsible NOT Farmington Church or Farmington Youth group.
9. Firecrackers, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, drugs, and weapons of any kind are forbidden.
10. Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are not permitted...handholding and hugs are fine, but no "purpling"! (If you need further clarification, see Doug Barr.)
11. When we leave the church for events, I will only leave the group with a buddy. And I must tell an adult group leader where I am going.

If I fail to comply with the rules or respond to the discipline of a leader, I may be sent home at anytime based on the discretion of the group leader, Douglas Barr.

SAFETY ISSUES

While Farmington is a comfortable, loving environment, we often forget how important awareness of our surroundings can be. *While attending youth events, all youth are expected to be in the designated youth areas and not to wander off.* For the welfare of the students and the care of the Farmington grounds and property, all students are expected to stay with the supervising adults running all weekly and special events. Our youth program is run completely by adult volunteers who love and care for the spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being of these students, and they put a lot of their time and attention into preparing for programs. It is a way to honor and respect the work they are doing by being present and attentive to what they have to say!

DISMISSAL

During weekly youth events, students will enter and leave the building from the back parking lot doors beside the youth room. This will help us to insure the safety of the youth by limiting the open doors to the building and giving parents a specific pick up point.

FARMINGTON'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SUNDAY SCHOOL (SEEK)

Middle School & Sr. High Sunday School begins at 10am on Sunday mornings. This year we will be exploring our creeds and beliefs while we wrestle with tough questions students often ask. Our curriculum takes a humorous but deep look at some of the core beliefs of Christianity. Students will grow in understanding of our faith heritage as they explore questions around God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, creed, and Discipleship.

Confirmation is offered every other year for all youth interested in professing their faith and joining the church. We will explore our faith traditions through the Book of Confessions, our Christian heritage, visits to other worshipping communities, and by creating our own statements of faith.

SUNDAY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (SHARE)

Our worship services come from a long tradition that has laid down good practices for each day and age. On Sunday Afternoons from 2 - 4pm we will seek to grow our understanding of worship while exploring creative ways of portraying the scriptures through art, movement, skits, and songs. Sunday afternoons from 2 - 4pm - students in grades 6 - 12 will meet for fellowship and sharing as we look at the texts being shared in Sunday Worship.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT (GROW)

Dinner at 5:45. Program from 6:30pm - 7 Wednesday Nights. Wednesday is a chance for the Farmington Family to eat, chat, and enjoy an intergenerational event. There is always a focus on elementary and youth student participation and involvement. Games, lessons, service projects, worship and more create a relaxed and informative evening!

RETREATS (PILGRIMAGE)

Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for the youth to escape from the day to day and explore faith in an environment free of the local and cultural trappings.

Presbyterian Youth Connection Retreat is a weekend escape to hear from relevant and faithful speakers while getting to know the fellow students of surrounding Presbyterian church congregations. These are inexpensive and valuable times of study and fellowship. This Retreat is at the end of February.

Great Escape is a summer retreat for middle school students to experience a vibrant and active love of Jesus Christ, begin to truly own their faith, and experience the Kingdom of God in ways that will never be forgotten. This week is packed full of recreation and activities as well as dynamic speakers, musicians, and other artists who understand how to communicate in real ways with young people. Great Escape is the second week in June at Lee University in Cleveland, TN

Montreat Youth Conference is designed for high school students, entering freshmen through graduated seniors, and their adult leaders. It 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. It is the jewel of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a place where our young people group in love and fellowship with one another in incredible and life changing ways. Montreat is in July at Montreat Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC.

MONTHLY MEETUPS

NEW this year, we intend to have an opportunity for students in all elementary and Youth groups to gather once a month outside of the regular programming of the church. This includes Lock-ins, Escape Rooms, Mempoys, Pool Parties, Germantown Festival and more. Look for these monthly opportunities for your child.

Trunk or Treat: Join us for Games, Candy, and Trunk or Treating at this family fun event in the back parking lot of Farmington. Invite your friends and bring your whole family to an October festival for the Day School & Church.

Lock-ins: Every once in a while we get the youth (6th – 12th grade) together to relax and play together with no other agenda. Lock ins are Up-all-night times of fellowship, games, and movies. Fill out the permission form and let us know if your students will be in attendance.

MINISTRY (SERVICE)

Throughout the year we have opportunities to participate in the healing of the world through acts of service. All students are encouraged to attend Room in the Inn, Soup Kitchen Sundays, Service weeks and more so that we can get to know, hope to serve, and bridge the divides in our community.

Memphis Youth Mission is a new ministry that opened two years ago. Participants in their program will have an opportunity to understand the struggles of those living on the margins in The Blues City. Youth will volunteer at a variety of agencies, and through their work and their presence will come to know more about issues of homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, and the unsupported. More information is TBA.

TOOLS

REMIND: Text “@Farmyo” to 81010 to receive text updates on upcoming YOUTH events from Doug Barr. This is a really easy way to RSVP to events and keep informed on any changing schedules.

NEWSLETTER: Our Farmington newsletter, NEW VISION, is a monthly digital or print resource to help you keep up do date on events, articles, and photos in the Farmington Family. Pick up a copy outside the sanctuary or go to www.farmingtonpres.org/new-vision to read, download , or sign up to receive each publication.

WEBSITE: www.farmingtonpres.org is a place you can sign up for upcoming events, see what is new, and find ways to participate in the life of the church.

FACEBOOK: Pictures, events, and articles can be found by following “@Farmington.pres” on Facebook.

PERMISSIONS

Permission Slip and Release of Liability: Throughout the year there are retreats and events that Farmington makes available to its youth ministry. Each event and organization we work with has its own registration form and its own way of handling deposits, permissions, and registration. The form below will serve as your student’s registration information for Farmington bus trips and events throughout the year (a.k.a. Presbytery retreats, Lock-ins, Disc Golf, and more). Every student will have one on file in the Christian Education Office before attending any retreat off campus event. This form does NOT substitute as a registration form for a third party event (A.K.A. Montreat, Great Escape, College Conference). Remember that the Deposit or full payment reserves a spot on a trip and no student will be considered fully registered until the required amount is paid.

YOUTH CALENDAR

2018 – 2019 Tentative Dates

August				
5	MemPops Kick off	MemPops		2-3pm
31	Lock-In	Farmington		7pm – 8am
September				
8-9	Germantown Festival (FR)	Fair Grounds		
9	MIFA Service Day	Downtown		1:30pm
October				
6	Bread Baking	Farmington		2pm
8 – 12	Fall Break Service Week	TBA		
14	Cornmaze	Agracenter		2pm
21	Youth Sunday	Farmington		9:30am
28	Trunk or Treat	Farmington		4pm
November				
11	Veterans Day Service Project			
15	Thanksgiving Dinner & Service	Farmington		5:45pm
25	Hanging of the Greens			
December				
8	Mom’s Day Out (FR)	Farmington		10pm – 2pm
9	Caroling	Farmington		
16	All Youth Christmas Party	Farmington		2 – 4pm
January				
	(Take orders for Casseroles and Dips to be made January 27)			
2 - 5	College Montreat Conference	Montreat, NC		
5	Boxing of the Greens	Farmington		9am
February				
4	Super Bowl Casserole and Dips	Farmington		
22-23	PYC All Youth Retreat	Pinecrest		
March				
TBA	Spring Break activities	TBA		Daily Rec & Serve events
3	Confirmation Begins	Farmington		10am
April				
20	Easter Egg Hunt	Farmington		9am
21	Easter Sunrise Service	Farmington		7am

(More to come)

GOOD FAITH COVENANT:

I, _____, as a member of Farmington Presbyterian, recognize that in attending and participating in Farmington Student activities (outings, lock-ins, etc) I am a representative of my church. Knowing this, I agree that my behavior will reflect the respect which is due to my peers and my leaders. I will try my best to also be respectful of people and property, have a good attitude, and abide by FARMINGTON Student regulations.

RULES OF FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP

1. Listening to group leaders is very important. I will pay attention and listen to directions and requests of the Farmington leaders. I trust that they are acting in my best interest.
2. I will not criticize others; just as I wouldn't want to be judged harshly, I will not do so to others.
3. I will be a ready and willing listener for my peers.
4. I will be open and honest in any discussions we might have.
5. I recognize my right to "pass" on sharing or discussions.
6. I will participate in activities.
7. I will notify one of my group leaders in the event that I feel in danger or discomfort in any situation.
8. Damage done to the property (either Farmington's or the facilities in which we might be visiting) is the responsibility of persons involved. If damage happens, it needs to be reported ASAP. If cost is incurred, your parent/guardian will be notified and you or your family will be financially responsible NOT Farmington Church. *In other words, you break it, you buy it!*
9. Firecrackers, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, drugs, and weapons of any kind are forbidden.
10. Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are not permitted...handholding and hugs are fine, but keep it PG people.
11. When we leave the church for events, I will not leave the group by myself...I will take a buddy. And tell someone where I am going.

If I fail to comply with the rules or respond to the discipline of a leader, I may be sent home at anytime based on the discretion of the group leader and at the parents expense.

(Participant Signature & Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature & Date)

PERMISSION SLIP AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
Farmington Presbyterian Church
8245 Farmington Blvd., Germantown, TN 38016

Last Name	First Name	Birth Date
Address	City	State
Grade	Student's Email Address	Student's Cell#

To be filled out by youth:

I am planning on participating in student activities at Farmington Presbyterian Church. With adult leaders and other youth from FPC, I agree to be responsible for my behavior, to respect the health and safety of others and myself, to relate to others and to use property and equipment in appropriate ways. I understand that no drinking, smoking, sexual conduct, or use of drugs is permitted and that a violation of any of these will result in immediate consequences.

Date _____ **Student Signature** _____

To be filled out by parent:

I grant permission for photos of my student to be used by FPC for paper and website publications YES / NO

I grant permission for my child to participate in student activities with adult leaders and students of FPC. I expect and hold my child to be responsible for his/her own actions, to be a cooperative member of the group so that these activities can be a wholesome means of fellowship. I have read the statement of responsibility above and have talked with my child about it. The church and adult leaders are held with no liability for unwise actions on my child's part.

Date _____ **Parent Signature** _____

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give the **designated sponsor** permission to act in my behalf in seeking emergency treatment for my young person, _____ in the event that such treatment is deemed necessary by designated sponsor. I give permission to those administering emergency treatment to do so, using those measures deemed necessary.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ Signature: _____

Phone#1: _____ Phone#2: _____ Email: _____

If parents are not available, please call relative or person below.

Name & Relationship _____ Phone _____

Any allergies or medical conditions (medication, drug reactions, etc.): _____

Any needed medication? Yes/No _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Name of Insurance _____ Address _____

Name of Holder _____ Contract/Policy _____

Employer _____ Address _____

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that this information stays up to date in the Christian Education office.