

Youth Ministry Programs

To help fulfill our vision, the schedule is planned with four elements in mind: recreation, study, worship, and service. We work to achieve a balance of all these elements as we connect youth to the whole church-not just to a youth group or church school class. We involve youth everywhere-worship, mission, governance, education, fellowship-everywhere!

Worship is at the heart of our tradition, and at SAPC, we provide opportunities for both formal and informal worship. We encourage youth to be faithful in joining the worshiping body of the church, and will keep their needs in mind in planning for worship. We seek opportunities for youth to take leadership roles in our Sunday morning worship service. On Youth Sunday, youth facilitate the entire service.

Youth Group, usually held on Sunday evening, focuses on recreation and group building. Activities are planned that are both physically and emotionally safe for everyone. Other activities may include study, guest speakers, service projects, information and preparation sessions, prayer, joining with other church youth groups, and other activities planned by the Youth Group Advisors and Youth Leadership Team.

Sunday night Youth Group will typically follow this schedule, unless dictated otherwise for a specific program or activity:

6:00 Arrive

6:00-6:30 Dinner

6:30-7:00 Music, Games, Announcements, etc.

7:00-8:00 Program

Sunday School and Bible Study Groups - Also at the heart of our tradition is a call to engage our minds in the study of God's Word. Youth live in a day when the complex issues of life call them to deeper understanding and intentional study of the Word. We meet this need in two distinct ways.

The purpose of Sunday school, held on Sunday mornings, is to provide a setting for intentional learning. It is a place to learn about Jesus Christ, a systematic way of exploring issues related to the faith; an easy, comfortable, and safe place to learn; and a place to explore and express faith-related issues. The curriculum is Bible-oriented, activity-oriented, and discussion-based.

Mid-week Bible Study Groups develop during the year to extend opportunity for study, prayer, and fellowship in small groups. These groups become support groups for youth. Adults from the congregation serve as Bible study leaders for groups.

Service Projects and Mission Work are an important part of our balanced program. Throughout the year, youth will plan and implement service and mission projects that benefit the church, community, and our world. The High School Mission Trip and Middle School Summer Mission Project are just two of many opportunities for youth to grow in their faith. The high school mission trip follows a four year rotation: International, Domestic – urban, International, Domestic- rural. The trip location is selected by the rising senior class, in conjunction with the Youth Committee. Youth may also serve on the Mission Committee of SAPC and join in all/any of the projects of the entire church.

Confirmation - Confirmation class will regularly be offered as the 8th grade Sunday School Class. Any older youth seeking confirmation may join this class. Each year, the Youth Committee will select adult laypersons to work with the confirmation classes.

Events and Opportunities

Usual events and opportunities of the program year are:

Sunday School

Worship Services

Sunday Evening Youth Group

Church wide Fellowship Events

Bible Study Groups

New Hope Presbytery Middle School Retreat

New Hope Presbytery High School Retreat

Mission Projects, Service Projects

Youth Sunday

Lock-ins

Vacation Bible School

Massanetta Middle School Conference

Summer Middle School Mission Project

Montreat Youth Conference

High School Mission Trip

Presbyterian Youth Triennium-every third year

Approved Fund Raisers

Confirmation

Teacher and Advisor Appreciation

Various Service and Leadership Opportunities in the Church, Presbytery, Synod, and PCUSA