



Dear First Church Youth and Families,

One month from today, on Rally Day, we kick off the program year at First Church. Confirmation and High School Sunday School classes begin! And, just as exciting, there will be free ice cream!

Confirmation Class for 7th and 8th grade students will start up on Rally Day, September 11, and continue each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in Room M. The wonderful Jim Hagedorn will continue to teach this class. Jim is also working with Pastor Grace to organize Confirmation Class field trips to different houses of worship in the area to better understand our Methodist roots. More information is coming soon!

High Schoolers, I encourage you to join us for Sunday School each week at 9:15 a.m. in Room J. There will be opportunities to connect with each other, questions to reflect on your spiritual growth, and adults from the congregation to speak with you about how they live their faith in the world.

There will also be baked goods. If there are topics you want to talk about, please email me or indicate those topics on the [survey](#).

Following our 9:15 a.m. classes, I invite youth to join me in the balcony to sit together during worship. The person who chooses the most profound quote from the sermon will win a prize.

We are changing up how youth fellowship groups have run at First Church. Here's the plan! All youth grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Wednesday night for dinner at 6:00 p.m. After dinner, we will break into Middle School and High School groups. We will play games, share life updates, and get to know each other better. At the end of the hour, everyone will come back together for a time of prayer before heading out at 7:00 p.m. Our hope is that this weekly gathering will be a dependable, meaningful opportunity to build community. We also hope that hosting all youth groups on the same night will ease the transportation burden on parents. It is helpful for youth to register for youth group weekly via Realm in advance, so we can place accurate dinner orders. Come as you are and come as you are able!

Here is a [Year at a Glance calendar](#) outlining the Youth Ministry events we have planned. This will be mailed to families, as well. You will notice that there is some extra space for you to write in additional events as they come up. Please fill out [this survey](#) to help us better understand your wishes for Youth programming at First Church.

We are celebrating the start of the program year on October 2 with a campfire at Lighthouse Beach in Evanston from 6-8:00 p.m. There will be hot dogs, plant-based dogs, s'mores, and games. BYO water bottle and join us! Registration is coming soon.

Speaking of registrations, registration for the upcoming program year will be opening up on September 1. Families, please register your youths ahead of Rally Day to ensure that they are able to seamlessly join classes and activities. We have attempted to make online registration easier by digitizing the annual Medical Information form. Can I get a round of applause for fillable PDFs?

With all of these ambitious plans, we need adult volunteers. If you have completed a background check for the church, thank you! If you are interested in completing a background check in order to volunteer, please email me!

We have so many wonderful things planned for this year. We will invite youth to join us for a mid-winter retreat to decompress and reflect away from home, serve with ASP for the 25th year, and prepare and celebrate

several Confirmands and welcome them as members of our church. We will form connections, grow in our faith journeys, and support each other. Please know that I care about making this year meaningful and memorable for you. I hope to hear your ideas, and I trust that we will work together to make this a wonderful program year.

All my best,

Kelsey Morton

Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult
Ministry

Kelsey@faithatfirst.com



First United Methodist Church | 516 Church St, Evanston, IL 60201

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