

WHY YOUTH MINISTRY @ FIRST?

Come and see for yourself. We encourage thoughtful exploration of what it means to be a follower of Christ in a complex and divisive world. We embrace conversations that are open and respectful, ideas that are true to the identity and work of God, and lifestyles that show following Christ is a way of life, not just a system of belief.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.

Become fully connected to this community by making Koinonia a weekly experience. *Koinonia* is the Greek word used to describe the first Christian communities in the New Testament. *Koinonia* happens on Sunday at FBCA when we form small groups, share in activities, and wrestle with complex and critical issues of faith and spirituality.

SUNDAY KOINONIA YOUTH GROUP

AGAPE WEDNESDAY

Jesus teaches that the greatest commandment is to love God with all of your mind, heart, soul, and strength, and that Christ-like understanding of LOVE (*Agape* in Greek) guides our monthly structure: we use our minds through thoughtful discussions (week 1), our hearts through encounters & excursions with people outside our own community (week 2), our souls through creative activities (week 3), and our strength through hands-on service projects (week 4).

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Youth are searching for meaningful studies of the Bible that are insightful, conversational, and relevant. Come deepen your knowledge and application of the Bible with a group of peers from your own grade, and don't forget to bring your honest questions!

AND DON'T FORGET... MUSIC

Every Sunday, youth have the opportunity to be a part of a larger ensemble for the purpose of creating sacred music together, both through the Asheville Youth Choir (AYC) and Youth Handbells. Seasonally, students may also participate with the FBCA Orchestra.

SEASONAL RETREATS

AWANITA: Enjoy the beauty of fall at Awanita Valley, complete with hummer rides, zip lines, a mountaintop bonfire, and thematic worship sessions. Seventh graders will also be welcomed into the youth group through an encouraging rite of passage.

SKI TRIP: Pack your snow gear, hop on the church bus, and head off to Winterplace, WV for a fun weekend on the slopes!

CASWELL: Celebrate the end of the year in the sand and the surf of Caswell Beach. We'll enjoy thoughtful discussions, group games & challenges, and evening parties, as well as group affirmations and senior rites of passage.

UNIDIVERSITY CAMP: Experience a truly unique camp set on the campus of the University of Tennessee. Choose from a list of creative electives and seminars, attend thought-provoking worship sessions, and enjoy free time and recreation on the campus. Prior to camp, our group will spend two challenging days doing roof repairs in Knoxville.