



# Youth Ministry

## Junior, Senior, and Post High

[www.whumc.org/youth/](http://www.whumc.org/youth/)

### YOUTH MINISTRY OVERVIEW

“A place to call home, where we are welcomed and sent forth to serve” means youth, too!

- Feel safe to be yourself
- Feel welcomed whether or not you or your family attend church
- Ask the tough questions about faith, the Bible, and God
- Know you are loved and to share that love with others
- Discover your gifts and explore ways to use them
- Put aside time to serve others in your community and world

### VISION AND GOALS

- Build a caring, supportive community where *all* youth belong
- Develop meaningful relationship between youth and adults
- Create an atmosphere of love, trust, and acceptance
- Promote better understanding of other faiths through interfaith visits
- Assist in transitions from school to college to work
- Provide a variety of experiences that foster each individual’s own spiritual journey including:
  - Classes on faith and life
  - Confirmation and bible study
  - Annual work trips and monthly service projects
  - Retreats
  - Speakers and discussion topics relevant to today
  - Youth leadership

### WORK TRIPS

Life-changing annual work trip experiences are offered for all youth in grades 7 - 12.

Junior High spends three days in-state at United Methodist camp sites or inner city missions. Trips are usually scheduled in June. Wesley Woods, Pictured Rocks, Waterloo, and Cedar Rapids are some of the destinations.

Senior High take a week long out of state trip in mid to late July. Fundraising opportunities offered throughout the year give all youth the chance to experience a memory-making week. Youth and adult teams work on a variety of service projects including home and church repair, meal service at homeless shelters, food and clothing pantries, Bible school programs, and weather-related clean up. Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana, Colorado, Wisconsin, Louisiana, North Carolina and Georgia are some of the states visited in the past.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Junior High (Grades 7 and 8) and Senior High (Grades 9 through 12) gather together from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the youth center on the lower level. You are welcome to be yourself, make friends with youth from other schools, make a difference in the community through service projects, discuss tough questions about God, and have a lot of fun along the way! Youth and adults work together to plan and carry out youth programs and activities.

### SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES - “Exploring the Questions of Faith”

Classes are held in the youth center on the lower level every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

#### 7th Grade

A class just for you! “Wild Truth” takes students back to Bible stories and characters to find out what they discovered about God. What does it mean for youth today? How can youth apply what they’ve discovered to their own lives?

#### 8th Grade

Confirmation Class is a one year program which includes Bible study each Sunday morning, a monthly Confirmation Class taught by the senior minister, bi-monthly interfaith visits, and Sunday morning volunteer opportunities. Registration and orientation is in August. An adult mentor is matched with 3 - 4 youth who journey alongside them throughout the confirmation experience.

#### Senior High (Grades 9 through 12) - “I Know What I Don’t Know”

Discussion-based, thought provoking classes on life and faith issues important to youth. The themes of spirituality, social justice, service, and interfaith are explored. Youth aren’t given the answers but are encouraged to ask the questions.

### OTHER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- YLT (Youth Leadership Team) - Youth interested in taking a leadership role with youth, meet with the Christian Education Director and adult youth leadership to plan activities for the year.
- Youth Service - All youth are welcome to participate in a variety of service projects, regularly throughout the year on Wednesday evenings during Youth Group.
- Volunteering - Sunday morning and office volunteer positions and representation on church leadership committees, including Administrative Council.
- Scholarships - Two college scholarships are awarded to youth entering college who have shown leadership in service to the church and community.