



Youth Ministry Updates

The school year youth gatherings are in full swing. What a joy!

On Wednesday nights, students (grades 6-12) gather for food, fun, fellowship, and faith. It is great to welcome our new 6th graders to the Middle School crew AND expand our Wednesday gatherings to include a senior high group. I'm grateful to have this year to be the lead Middle School teacher and honored to have JoAn Baker join me as the lead Senior High teacher. Along with other adults who will join us over the course of the year, we are excited for the year ahead. We've got a lot of great activities coming up that will be wonderful to invite friends to join, so stay tuned!

On Sunday mornings, we have a newly expanded music and worship arts program, coordinated by Lori Lahtinen, Cindy Bailey, Ali Lundin, and Chuck Mann. Students in grades 6-12 have the opportunity to share their musical gifts and spoken word talents. I am really excited to have students join me as worship leaders, both as the Higher Ground music team, as well as students who will be preparing to read scripture, lead worship, and prepare dramas to be shared in worship throughout the school year.

Thank you, students, for your commitment. Thank you, parents, for your support. Looking forward to a Spirit-filled year together.



Youth Update and Calendar on the Cross Winds Website

The new church website features a youth section which serves as a gateway for you to learn about upcoming events, weekly schedules, and other church activities. Be sure to check out the calendar section or featured events, which have options to sync things to your personal calendar.

Learn more - <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>

We also are sending out new youth email updates. Be sure to update your church profile with the directory forms or contact the office to subscribe to the youth email e-news.



CROSS WINDS UMC SENIOR HIGH

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 6-12, 2024

STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-12



2024 Senior High Mission Trip

July 6-12, 2024

Destination - Benton Harbor, MI

Total Cost - Full Cost is approximately \$900
(Fundraising opportunities will be available for individuals to possibly raise up to 50%)

Eligible - Students in grades 8-12 (during the 2023-2024 school year)

Sample Service Projects and Activities: Partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, or by assisting with painting, cleaning or simple repair projects. During a week in Benton Harbor, our group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. We'll also have the opportunity to experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2000.

Housing Arrangements: Groups are housed in a local church, school or community building. Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows and sleeping pads or air mattresses that are twin-size or smaller. All females and males sleep in separate rooms, including married Adult Leaders. Showers are available either on site or at a nearby location. Off-site showers may be at local community center, YMCA or public high school which may include open shower rooms or private stalls. Specific details will be available in the spring as they are confirmed in each community.

Transportation: Chaperones will be responsible for driving students in rented vans from Cross Winds to Benton Harbor, MI and back home.

Priority Registration Due By - October 15, 2023 (\$50 due at registration)

Final registration due by December 1, 2023

Participants will be asked to assist with fundraising efforts and attend three team meetings.

Information about fundraising commitments will be available in mid-October.

To learn more, visit the youth webpage - <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>